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Killed by with drunken driving, not fame

John Lichfield
Paris

The driver of the car in which Diana, Princess of Wales, died had been drinking heavily - he had consumed the equivalent of about a bottle of wine - and was travelling at more than 120mph, it emerged yesterday.

The revelations, by police and judicial sources, threw into confusion an increasingly angry debate about responsibility for the death of the Princess of Wales.

A lawyer acting for Mohamed al-Fayed, father of the Princess's friend, Dodi, who also died, said he would go ahead with a civil lawsuit against the pursuing press photographers if French authorities failed to bring criminal charges against them.

The driver, Henri Paul, aged 41, the third victim of the crash, was the deputy security director at the Ritz Hotel in Paris, which is owned by Mr Fayed. He had consumed more than three times the French legal limit of alcohol, police said. This would be equivalent to double the legal limit in Britain. Judicial sources also reported that the driver was under the influence of drugs.

Mr Fayed's lawyer, Bernard Lebevel, said that he believed the photographs were responsible for events which led to the crash, even if it was confirmed that Mr Paul was drunk. The driver was described as a tough, genial Breton, a former air force pilot who had worked at the Ritz Hotel for 11 years.

Chilling new evidence also emerged yesterday of the behaviour of the paparazzi in the minutes after the car collided with a pillar in an underpass in central Paris in the early hours of Sunday.

At least three photographers

fled the scene, after taking shots of the dead and dying victims lying in the wreckage, according to lawyers and police sources. They are presumed to be the source of horrific pictures of the bodies and wrecked car which have been offered to publications in Europe and America but, so far, rejected - though one picture - taken some distance from the scene and showing the carnage, was published in a German tabloid yesterday.

The French authorities were expected last night to bring charges against some or all of the seven other photographers, taken into custody on Sunday morning. The charges were expected to involve failure to take action to save human life.

Three new American witnesses of the crash scene came forward yesterday to say that they saw photographers pushing police officers out of the way to shoot pictures of the wreckage from close range. At the time, they said, the body of the unconscious and dying Princess was lying halfway out of the mangled vehicle.

A French doctor, who was driving past the crash, and attempted to revive the Princess, told a similar story. He said he was surrounded by "10 to 15 photographers" firing off their flashes the whole time that he fought to save Diana's life.

Dr Frederic Mitterand said that when he found Diana she was "unconscious... moaning, and gesturing in every direction". He said he lifted her head and helped her to breathe with an oxygen mask. All this time, he said, the photographers were "snapping away at the car non-stop though one cannot say they hampered me or my work".

A statement by the Public Prosecutor's Office on charges against those photographers held by the police - possibly including manslaughter - was expected throughout yesterday

and delayed several times. A spokeswoman said only that there was a "hitch". Late in the afternoon, it emerged what a monumental hitch it was.

The prosecutor's office announced that the driver of the crashed car had an "illegal" level of alcohol in his bloodstream. Police sources said later that this was 175 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood, compared to a legal French limit of 50 milligrams and a British limit of 80 milligrams.

Earlier, a lawyer for one of the photographers under police questioning, alleged that Mr Paul issued a dare to the paparazzi earlier in the evening. Gilbert Collard, a Marseilles lawyer, said there was "banter" in which Mr Paul had said, words to the effect of, "You'll never catch me in any case".

A spokeswoman for the Ritz refused to comment on this allegation. She rejected earlier suggestions that he was an inexperienced driver; he had taken several driving courses with Mercedes-Benz.

The spokeswoman said that he took the wheel on Saturday night as part of an emergency drill to test the hotel's fire alarm system. She said that he was not directly involved. As Mr Paul entered the tunnel, he came upon a car travelling much more slowly. Police believe that he lost control as he tried to overtake.

The British Embassy in Paris opened a book of condolences for Princess Diana yesterday. Embassy officials said queues of people filled the courtyard of the ambassador's residence throughout the day.

As Buckingham Palace announced details of Diana's funeral service at Westminster Abbey on Saturday morning, this small, quiet village church in rural Northamptonshire is slowly gaining the appearance of a place of pilgrimage.

The Spencer Chapel, in the north-east corner of St Mary the Virgin Church at Great Brington, is the spot where 20 generations of Spencers have been buried.

On Saturday afternoon, after the sombre pomp and ceremony of the Abbey service, this is the tranquil place to which Diana's remains will return. Probably, like those of her ancestors, in ashes.

If, in future years, there is an informal cult of Diana, the Princess martyred by a drunk driver, the media of fame, then it will be here, this quiet churchyard, that the followers will come. And yesterday's incredible outpouring of grief seems strong enough to sustain her name and memory.

Thousands of mourners queued yesterday - many for up to six hours - at St James's Palace, where the Princess's body lies in the Chapel of Rest, to sign one of five Books of Condolence.

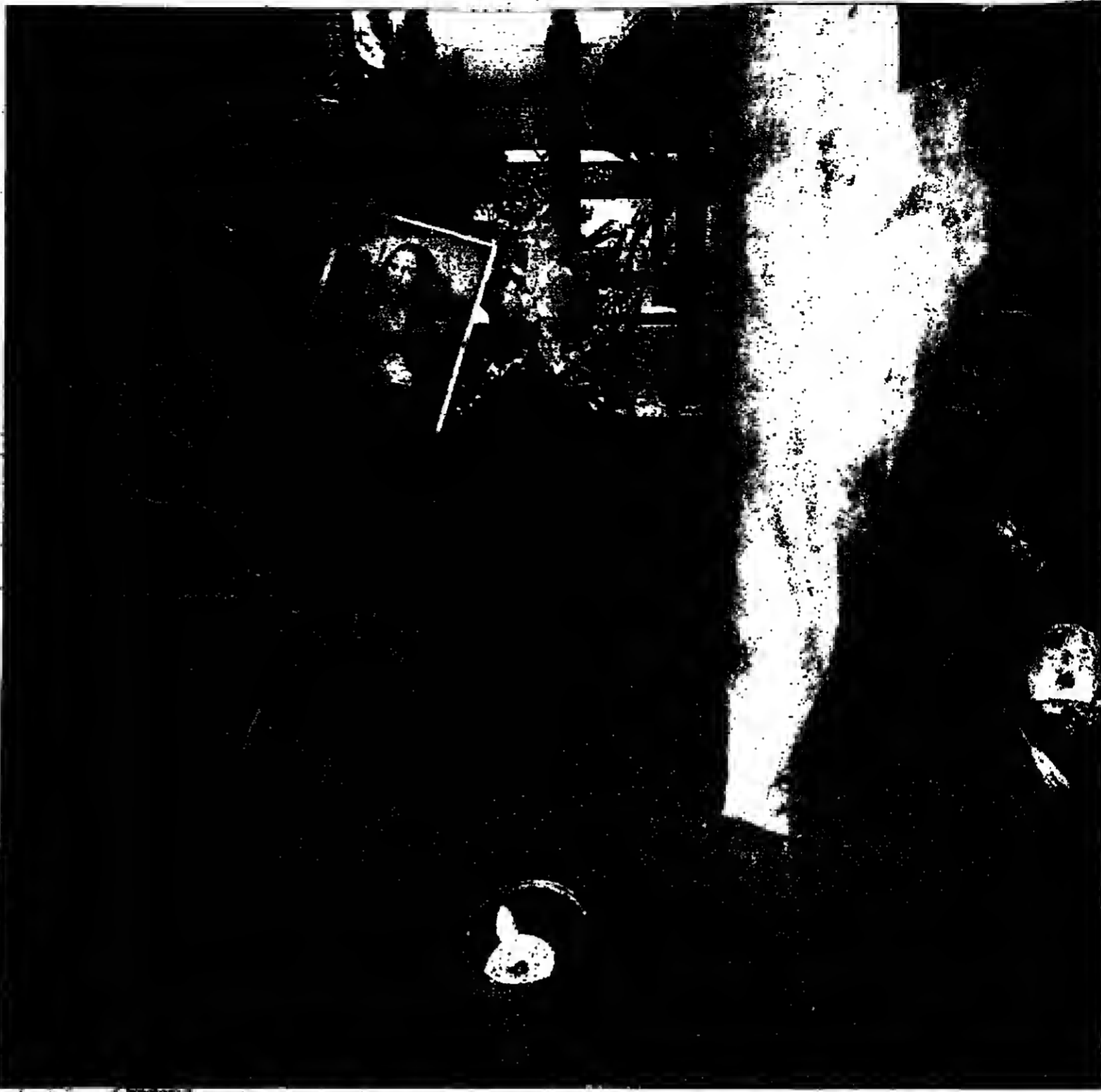
In extraordinary scenes, a huge carpet of flowers lined the gates of Kensington Palace while police estimated that more than 50,000 mourners made the pilgrimage to the Princess's home.

Last night, huge grief-stricken crowds of people wanting to pay their final respects led police to close roads around Buckingham Palace.

The roads, including the Mall and Constitution Hill, were unexpectedly cleared of traffic until the day after the funeral of the Princess. The crowds - including those thousands queuing to commit their thoughts to paper - overflowed the area's famous extra-wide pavements.

A police spokesman said simply: "The decision to close

A shrine rises where Diana will rest



Floral tributes line the path to the Spencer chapel at St Mary the Virgin in Great Brington, where Diana will be laid to rest. Photograph: David Rose

Quiet interment to follow day of pomp

Michael Streeter

With its candles, flowers and enigmatic portrait, this shrine could be that of a Catholic saint.

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Mourners wait to sign books of condolence at St James's Palace in London yesterday. Photograph: Brian Harris

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Diana 1961-1997
Britain closes down on Saturday 3
Press body promises photograph review 4
Grief at a silent sanctuary 5
How other monarchies guard their privacy 6
Leading article 11
Letters 11

Blair presses Palace for people's funeral

Anthony Bevins and Michael Streeter

The Prime Minister's office was yesterday in talks with Buckingham Palace in an attempt to create funeral arrangements that would satisfy the public need to mourn the loss of the "People's Princess".

It became clear during the day that while Number 10 accepted the right of the two families to lay down a framework for Saturday's funeral, Tony Blair had views of his own on giving the public an outlet for its collective grief.

A spokesman for Mr Blair said that there was agreement on all sides that there was no question of limiting official Westminster Abbey funeral service invitations to the "great and good" - dignitaries from home and abroad.

It was said that arrangements would be made to ensure that the 2,000-strong congregation would include ordinary people who represented some of the good causes, like the fight against AIDS, and the campaign against landmines, that the Princess had been associated with in recent years.

That could well mean that

some people - and some countries - will feel snubbed if their ambassadors are excluded. But Number 10 was further pressing for a funeral that recognised the Princess's enormous domestic popularity.

The spokesman said that the great grief felt by the nation was a measure of the unique depth of affection in which the Princess was held, and Saturday's arrangements had to reflect those sentiments.

But the Prime Minister's office clearly felt as much as possible had to be done to mark the nation's respect.

While there is to be no lying in state, there was a question mark yesterday as to the degree of ceremonial that would be attached to the funeral procession to the Abbey.

Dowling Street said there was still a question mark over whether the Princess's coffin might not be taken to the Abbey by gun carriage, which is a feature of state funeral arrangements.

It is also possible that the need of more people to witness part of the funeral could be satisfied by publicising the route to be taken when the Princess is returned to her home village, for

private burial, in Great Brington, Northamptonshire. For the broader public, it was recognised that there might have to be books of condolence at town halls across the country, in addition to those opened at St James's Palace, and nationwide church services can be expected.

Unofficial candlelit vigils, flower-laying, and periods of silence are all certain to be staged by groups and individuals as people seek ways of reflecting their sense of loss.

The Prime Minister's spokesman also pointed out that charities with which the princess had been associated might also benefit, with special donations being made to commemorate their loss.

It was said that it was, as yet, too early to think of a more enduring memorial, a monument of some kind that could be funded by public subscription.

Diana's brother, Earl Spencer also indicated his support yesterday for a high-profile "people's" funeral, claiming it was "right and proper" for the people of Britain to have a chance to pay their respects to her.

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FOOLKES SPARED BLAST
The International Development Minister George Foulkes was spared any threatened protest by the people of Montserrat when he flew in yesterday. Page 16

THE BROADSHEET
Business & City 15-17
Briefings 2
Comment 11-13
Cricket crossword 24
Foreign News 10
Gazette 14

Home News 2, 8, 9
Leading articles 11
Letters 11
People 22-24
Sport 21-24
NETWORK + TABLOID

Arts 4-7
Concise crossword 14
Health 15
Listings 12, 13
Radio & TV 15, 16



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news

significant shorts

Ballet directors quit after funding ultimatum

The entire board of Scottish Ballet yesterday agreed to quit in line with an ultimatum to the cash-strapped company from the Scottish Arts Council.

The move was agreed at a board meeting in Glasgow where the 10 directors, including chairman Coona Ivory agreed to stand down. Artistic director Galina Samsova is also to go, with agreement having been reached on the termination of her contract "with immediate effect", but has offered to give advice for six months, the company said. Ms Ivory said the directors saw no alternative but to indicate a "willingness to stand down", in order to secure funding to continue the "great traditions" of the dancers, musicians and staff. "However we are determined that this process should be conducted with maximum advantage to the company, and therefore the board is committed to working towards a smooth handover to the as yet unidentified new board," she said.

No immediate comment was available from the Scottish Arts Council, which last Thursday demanded the resignation of the board and a restructuring, as the price of getting its grant. A new board is expected to be appointed by the end of the week.

Mother denies 'mercy killing'

The devoted mother of a 14-month-old severely handicapped girl deliberately killed her daughter by removing the "lifeline" tube that was keeping her alive, a court was told yesterday.

The prosecution alleges that Julie Watts, 31, murdered her daughter Abigail, who needed round-the-clock care, by deliberately disconnecting a tracheotomy tube as she lay in bed at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital.

The jury at Manchester Crown Court was told how Abigail had suffered a "formidable" series of handicaps including brain damage since being resuscitated after suffering a heart attack shortly after her birth. The handicaps had left her needing several operations, suffering from brain damage and with a rare skull deformity. She was also unable to eat and had sight and hearing defects.

Mrs Watts, of Little Hulton, Salford, Greater Manchester - described as a devoted and caring mother - pleads not guilty to Abigail's murder. The case continues.

Footballer questioned over threats



The Manchester United captain Roy Keane has been questioned by police over claims that he threatened a neighbour with a knife.

Susan Eyres, 34, told officers the Irish international midfielder (pictured left) had shouted abuse at her after hammering on the back door of her parents' home in Altrincham. She claimed he brandished a knife and walking stick. The row is believed to have started after Mrs Eyres's brother told Keane to keep his dogs on a leash to stop them getting into his garden.

A police spokesman confirmed that Keane had been interviewed and that further inquiries were being made. "On completion of these inquiries a decision as to what further action to be taken will be made," he added.

Court told of £2m flats blaze

Two teenagers started London's worst residential fire for at least 10 years - making 95 families homeless and causing £2m damage to a block of flats, an Old Bailey court was told yesterday.

Police and fire crews arrived at Golf Links estate in Southall, west London to find a major fire spreading and flames spiralling 40 feet into the air. Terrified residents were calling for help from the upper floors, but although the block had to be completely evacuated there were no fatalities and injuries were minor, the court was told. Alan Atkinson, 15 and Parlip Khambey, 16, both from west London, deny arson on 15 November last year.

Food safety body launched

A new body set up to pave the way for the planned Food Standards Agency came into operation yesterday. The Joint Food Safety and Standards Group will work to restore confidence in British food until the new agency is up and running. The changes come in the wake of several food scares including the BSE crisis, E. coli and salmonella alerts. Food safety minister Jeff Rooker said the start-up of the new body represented a "new chapter" in how food safety issues were handled.

Ferrari death crash: Man accused

A man appeared in court yesterday charged with the killings of a young couple who were struck by a yellow Ferrari as they walked hand-in-hand along a pavement.

Jason Shultze appeared before Manchester magistrates charged with the manslaughter of Stuart Ward, aged 28, and his girlfriend Nathalie Monier, 22, from Marseilles, in Whalley Range in the city last week. The couple were hit by the £100,000 sports car as they walked along Upper Channon Road near their home. Mr Shultze faces a total of eight charges, including the aggravated taking of the car and driving while disqualified. He was remanded in custody.

people



King of the Street: Peter Salmon is regarded as a TV radical. (Photograph: Granada)

BBC1 lands Granada's big fish as its new controller

The man who brought "Pot Night" and Wallace and Gromit's Wrong Trousers to British television screens has been named as the new controller of BBC1.

Peter Salmon, 41, since last year the director of programmes at Granada, where he oversaw the injection of new life into Coronation Street, will replace Michael Jackson, who took over the running of Channel 4 in May.

The appointment completes a frantic round of musical chairs among the major broadcasters that has seen executives rotating between Channel 4, ITV and the BBC.

Mr Salmon worked previously at the BBC for 12 years. He left a job as head of features at BBC Bristol in 1993 to join Channel 4 as controller of factual programmes.

At the BBC he produced programmes as diverse as *Crimewatch UK*, the flagship wildlife series *Nature*, and *The Wrong Trousers*, the Christmas cartoon hit from Oscar-winning animator Nick Park.

But Mr Salmon makes a radical choice for the BBC. At Channel 4 he was forced to defend the channel's night of programmes devoted to cannabis, "Pot Night", from accusations that it encouraged drug use. He was also in charge of the late-night strand about

sex called the *Red Light Zone*, which came under attack from morality campaigners.

At Granada he was responsible for almost one-third of the ITV station's programmes, including the drama-serialisation of the Hillsborough stadium tragedy and the ambitious Daniel Defoe adaptation, *Moll Flanders*.

Mr Salmon said yesterday: "I shall be sorry to leave Granada, which is Britain's biggest and best commercial television producer. It'll mean swapping the *Rover's Return* for the *Queen Vic* as my local."

"BBC1 is a cornerstone of British popular culture, with the richest and broadest programme range of any channel in the world. The challenge of leading it into the 21st Century is an unmissable opportunity."

While at Granada, Mr Salmon brought a new producer to Coronation Street, which had started slipping in the ratings. This new producer introduced a new, unpleasant family and killed off a number of older, dull characters to make way for more dramatic storylines.

Other candidates for the job are thought to have included Paul Jackson, head of entertainment at the BBC, Mark Thompson, head of factual programmes at the BBC and Tom Gutteridge, an independent producer.

Paul McCann

At last, Foale gets chance to walk in space

Michael Foale (right), the British-born astronaut aboard the Russian space station, *Mir*, is to take part in a space walk on Saturday to inspect the damaged scientific module, officials at Mission Control near Moscow said yesterday.

"The cosmonauts will make the sortie through *Mir*'s biggest hatch on the Kvant-2 module, designed especially for spacewalks," said a spokesman.

During the spacewalk, Foale and the Russian commander, Anatoly Solovoyov, will look for one or more holes in the exterior of Spektr, which was punctured and lost air when a cargo tug collided with the station on 25 June.

Solovoyov and flight engineer Pavel Vinogradov will have to undertake one or more further spacewalks for the actual repairs.

Slow progress in separate on-board repairs to the ailing *Mir* has prompted Mission Control to postpone the inspection spacewalk, initially planned for tomorrow.

The spokesman said the crew was planning to spend yesterday



testing the space-suits they will have to wear on Saturday. Each spacesuit is like a small spaceship, with completely independent life support systems, which have to undergo extensive checks.

The crew has worked over the past week to restore power from the solar panels on *Mir*'s Spektr module. The station is now generating about 80 per cent or more of the power it had before the collision.

However, the motors which point Spektr's panels toward the sun are still not working. "We are still working on it," the spokesman said.

Jail for killer of Fleur Lombard

Security guard Martin Cody was yesterday jailed for seven-and-a-half years for the manslaughter of firefighter Fleur Lombard, who died in a blaze he had started.

Miss Lombard, 21, one of only eight women among Avon's 700 firefighters, was the first woman to die in peacetime service in Britain.

Sentencing Cody, also 21, Mr Justice Tuckey, sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice in London, said the reason for his behaviour, which psychiatrists agreed was not rooted in mental illness, lay in emotional conflict.

Mitigating, Cody's counsel, David Spens QC, said he was still very young and had no history of fire-starting or any other criminal behaviour. He had been convicted of "simple arson" and manslaughter, and it was accepted by the prosecution that he did not intend to endanger life or was reckless in that respect, and never envisaged anyone might be put at risk.

"Although he was seen punching the air with his clenched fist and shouting 'yes' after the fire started, once the dreadful news reached him, he became solemn and there was no exhilaration."

briefing

SOCIETY

Drugs-related crime is biggest fear for Britons

Almost half the population consider drugs and drug-related offences to be the biggest crime problem in the country, far ahead of burglary and assault, says a survey published today. Many said they would be willing to get involved in community patrols if young people if this would help to reduce crime in their area.

The Government will be cheered by the high level of support for the concept of "zero tolerance" - removing graffiti, dealing with aggressive beggars from the streets in an attempt to create a safer environment where more serious crimes do not occur.

Drugs and drug-related offending were described as the country's biggest crime problem by 45 per cent of the public. Burglary and assault were ranked first by 17 per cent and 13 per cent of people respectively.

More than 2,000 people took part in the MORI survey for the Bristol-based NetWest Insurance Services and the national crime prevention charity Crime Concern, which looked at attitudes in mainland Britain.

NATURE

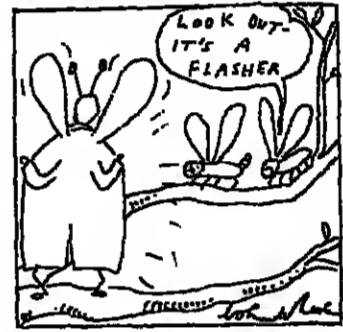
Female fireflies' fatal attraction

Femme fatale fireflies tempt males of a different species by pretending to be their mates and then have them for breakfast, scientists at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, have discovered. The female *Photinus* fireflies attract their victims with a flashing light "password". It is the same signal the female of the *Photinus* family uses to entice a mate, but not as welcoming.

In fact, the male *Photinus* flies come to a sticky end. The *Photinus* females are not looking for a loving embrace but for something to eat. The male *Photinus* has defensive chemicals in his blood the *Photinus* needs to repel predators like spiders and birds.

By devouring the hapless *Photinus* male, the female *Photinus* arms herself with the vital chemical. Experiments showed that when *Photinus* fireflies have eaten *Photinus* fireflies, hungry spiders reject them.

The findings were published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.



HEALTH

Electrical fault behind heart trouble

A previously unknown electrical problem has been discovered in some heart patients, which may be linked with dangerous rhythm disturbances, it was revealed yesterday. The abnormality prevents the heart from recovering to its normal electrical state after each beat.

Scientists at Johns Hopkins Medical Institute in Baltimore, Maryland, looked at 83 patients with a type of potentially fatal heart failure caused when the lower left chamber of the heart becomes stretched and weakened. A computer was used to analyse the time it takes for cells of the lower chambers to recover electrically from being contracted during a beat.

The results, published in the journal *Circulation*, showed that this time period varied widely from beat-to-beat, even though they appeared to have stable heart rates. In healthy volunteers, the beat-to-beat interval was relatively stable.

Dr Ronald Berger, who headed the research, said: "This is an important finding that requires further study clinically, to see if this is a predictor for dangerous rhythm disturbances, and mechanistically, to examine on a cellular level why this happens."

ENERGY

Nuclear power overtakes coal

For the first time, nuclear power has overtaken coal as the number one power source for Britain's electricity. Latest statistics from the Government show that in the second quarter of this year the UK's nuclear plants generated 36 per cent of the nation's power, while coal-fired stations were responsible for 33 per cent. Gas was close behind, with 29 per cent.

The figures are another grim milestone in the rapid decline of the coal industry. As recently as five years ago, coal generated more than 60 per cent of UK electricity, and before then, the proportion was much higher still.

The once mighty industry's prospects are worsening with a continuing flow of applications by energy companies to build new power stations fuelled by North Sea gas. Last month the nation's biggest coal mining company, RJB, announced the closure of the Asfordby "super pit" in Leicestershire, blaming geological problems. Some industry commentators say RJB may have to shut five of its 17 working deep mines when long-term coal contracts with the electricity generating companies come up for renewal in April next year.

Nicholas Schoon

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Forced to grieve in public gaze

Agonising pressure on sons as they cope with bereavement

Kathy Marks

To be robbed of a mother in such tragic and sudden circumstances would be devastating for any child. For Prince William and Harry, heirs to the throne first and foremost, their agony will be compounded by having to grieve in the public gaze.

At a crucial stage in their development, the boys have lost a mother who, however imperfect in other ways, always made them her first priority, lavished affection on them and tried to inject some sense of normality into their lives.

For 15-year-old William, in the throes of adolescence and, strikingly, the image of his mother, the emotional burden seems particularly intolerable. He already loathed the media for hounding Diana, for the part he believed they had played in the break-up of his parents' marriage, and the circumstances of her death are bound to exacerbate those feelings. Yet as a future monarch, he will have to learn to live inside a goldfish bowl.

Millions of strangers feel compassion towards these boys. But the public gaze is likely to make them clam up and conceal their emotions, according to Julie Stokes, a consultant clinical psychologist who runs a project for bereaved children in Gloucestershire. "And I can imagine that in the Royal household it is difficult to give vent to your feelings," she said.

"The Princes are not like other teenagers. They can't go out of the house, slam the door and run off to talk to their friends when they feel upset."

Prince William will find the media glare particularly difficult in the coming months. His hostility towards the press has been transparent since, aged 11, he turned on a group of photographers during a skiing holiday in Austria and had to be restrained by detectives. His discomfort even when posing for pre-arranged pictures is palpable, and he was reportedly unhappy at being instructed by Buckingham Palace to "perform" for a photocall at Eton at the start of term. When the boys will return to school now is not yet clear.

Judy Wade, Royal correspondent for *Hello!* magazine, believes Diana instilled her own paranoia about the media in William, despite trying to train him to face the cameras by taking pictures of him herself from an early age. "William is almost mentally crippled by watching his mother being pursued," she said.

The fear of some of Diana's friends, as the boys struggle to cope with bereavement, is that they will revert to a traditional Royal upbringing remote from ordinary life. That they masked their grief to attend church at Balmoral on Sunday, keeping up appearances in accordance with Royal custom, could be the first sign of that.

"Ma Wade, said yesterday: 'Diana and the boys were exceptionally close. From their mother, they got a sense of normality. She took them to hamburger joints and to the movies, to visit the homeless. She was an important balance to the kind of life they lead with Charles.'"

Bob Houston, founding editor of *Princess* magazine, said: "Diana's priority was to ensure that her children did not grow up in the kind of stifling atmosphere that her husband did."

With Diana gone, other adults in the Princes' lives will take on a key role in helping them to cope with their grief.

adapt to the loss of their mother and, it is hoped, grow into well-adjusted adults.

Prince Charles, obviously, will be crucial. People who know him say that while he is not given to public displays of affection, he is not the emotional cold fish that he appears and will be a rock of support for his sons.

William is said to have developed a particularly good relationship with the Queen, his grandmother, in recent years.

Ahead of them lies the immediate ordeal of their mother's funeral and the national outpouring of grief that, in these early days, is probably magnifying their anguish.

"On one level, they may be proud that Diana's popularity made her so special," said Ms Stokes.

"On another, they may be outraged that their mother is being mourned as if she were public property."

At times it will be almost impossible for them to grieve because they will feel as if the eyes of the world are upon them.

Others, though, believe Prince William is a sensitive, mature and intelligent boy who will learn to cope with his onerous responsibilities. Charles has said he is determined to shield both his sons from the burdens of Royal duties for as long as possible.

"They are remarkably normal compared to other Royals at their age," said Mr Houston. "Given the right kind of support, they have a good chance of growing up into sane and sensible adults."



Prince William: Facing an intolerable emotional burden in the throes of adolescence. He had already grown to hate the media

Photograph: James Grey

Funeral will be 'a unique occasion for unique person'

Michael Streeter

The Princess of Wales's funeral on Saturday will be a "unique" occasion for a "unique person", Buckingham Palace announced yesterday.

But while the bare outline of events is known, many of the finer details are still being thrashed out between the Palace, Downing Street and the Princess's family over the guest list, processions and involvement of the public.

The ceremony will take place in Westminster Abbey at 11am, and the Princess's coffin will be carried in procession from the Chapel of Rest in St James's Palace, where it is lying, out of public view. It is this procession which gives an opportunity for the public to display its grief, as well as the many planned tributes and silences around the country.

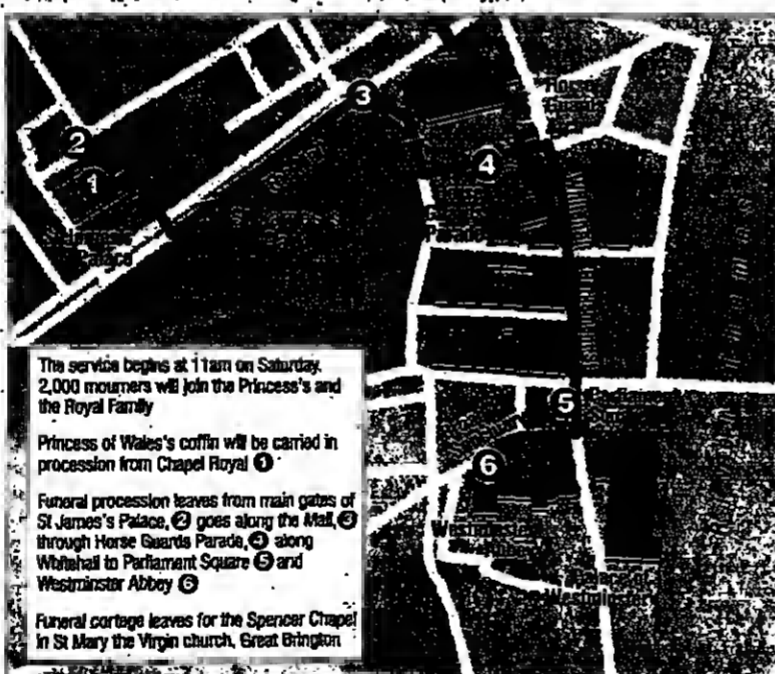
Around 2,000 guests will be invited to the service itself, though many more are expected to gather outside; family and friends of Diana, members of the Royal Family, and representatives of those organisations with which she was closely involved, such as charities. As it is not a state funeral, which would usually attract heads of state or senior representatives of other countries, foreign representation is likely to depend on the Princess's links with a particular country. France's President, Jacques Chirac, has already indicated he would like to attend.

Some of the more formal trappings of a state funeral, such as a gun carriage to carry the body, seen at the funeral of Sir Winston Churchill in 1965, may well be included. And inside the church a catafalque—a tomb-like structure—will be constructed under the lantern to support the coffin during the service.

After the service, at which the Princess's family and the Royal Family will be seated in the front pews, the coffin will be taken in a hearse to Northamptonshire for a private ceremony in the family's Spencer Chapel.

That procession will include members of the Princess's family and some members of the Royal Family.

The Spencer Chapel, which houses the remains of 20 generations of the family, lies in the north-east corner of the St Mary the Virgin church in the village of Great Brington. It was built as a private family mausoleum in 1516 on the in-



In Spencer family tradition Diana's ashes will be interred after cremation

structions of one of Diana's ancestors. If, as thought likely, family tradition is observed, Diana's ashes will be interred after cremation.

The route of the hearse to Northamptonshire will be announced later, along with further details about the service, including the expected congregation and participating clergy. A spokesman for the Archbishop of Canterbury, who may take

the service, said his office was in contact with the Lord Chamberlain's office and the Abbey, where the senior cleric is the Dean, the Most Reverend Wesley Carr.

Not all members of the Royal Family will be attending the interment, instead returning to Balmoral soon after the service, though it was unclear if this would include the young princes.

Meanwhile, four books of condolence were being opened at St James's Palace as a focus of mourning for the crowds of people who began to gather there yesterday.

The details released so far indicate that, as befits such an unusual Royal personality, the ceremony will be different from either a state funeral, a Royal "ceremonial" funeral such as the Duke of Edinburgh may have, and a private royal funeral. As a Buckingham Palace spokeswoman said: "This is a unique funeral for a unique person."

A state funeral is usually reserved for sovereigns alone though, on rare occasions exceptionally distinguished people—such as Lord Nelson, the Duke of Wellington, and in 1965 Sir Winston Churchill—have been honoured.

A state funeral is one approved by the Monarch and one for which funds have been voted by both Houses of Parliament. Diana's, by popular demand, seems likely to be such an occasion in all but name.

For the Queen, the discussions are being handled by The Lord Chamberlain, Lord Airlie, and his staff including the controller and assistant controller, as well as other Royal officials.

The Lord Chamberlain, the head of the Queen's Household, is likely to be a prominent figure at the funeral, close to the Queen and carrying his staff of office. As senior member of the family, Earl Spencer, Diana's brother, is representing her side. Unnamed senior officials in Downing Street will represent the Government.

Dimbleby is likely to lead BBC coverage

Paul McCann
Media Correspondent

David Dimbleby looks set to follow in his late father's footsteps by leading BBC coverage of the funeral on Saturday of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Although neither ITV nor the BBC has completed plans for the "people's funeral", it is likely to be the biggest broadcasting event since Winston Churchill's state funeral in 1965, the last great occasion of state covered for the BBC by Richard Dimbleby.

His eldest son is thought likely to lead BBC broadcasts covering the build-up to the funeral in London, the procession to Westminster Abbey and the journey by road from the funeral service to Althorp, in Northamptonshire, for Diana's interment.

The Northamptonshire coverage is yet to be finalised because Princess Diana's brother, Earl Spencer, has asked for "complete privacy" at the family church.

The BBC can call on a long list of broadcasters with experience of large set-piece occasions and the funeral is likely to be covered by a team. John Tusa, former head of the World Service, was lead broadcaster for the handover of Hong Kong and the coverage of VE-Day celebrations two years ago. Veteran broadcaster Raymond Baxter was also used two years ago and his sober, patrician tones may be



David Dimbleby: Following in his father's footsteps

thought appropriate for a funeral broadcast.

ITV will today complete plans for all-day coverage of the funeral. Jonathan Dimbleby is a leading candidate for a part in the coverage but the commercial broadcaster loses out to the BBC on big national occasions because of viewers' perceptions that the BBC is an arm of the state.

The first big event covered by BBC television was the coronation of George VI in 1937. Richard Dimbleby, famous as a wartime radio reporter, became the voice of national events when television restarted after the war.

David Dimbleby led the coverage of his first big state event when the then Prince Andrew married Sarah Ferguson. On the evening of Princess Diana's death he hosted a *Newsnight*/Pinpoint tribute.

Even the lottery will be postponed

Britain will grind to a halt as a mark of respect, writes Amanda Kelly

The United Kingdom will come to a halt on Saturday morning as a grieving nation watches Diana, Princess of Wales, laid to rest. Shops and businesses all over the country will close their doors as a mark of respect and all the day's major sporting fixtures have been abandoned.

Many theatres will keep their curtains drawn and big name cinema chains will remain empty until the evening. Even the National Lottery will stop rolling. Camelot announced that the weekend draw would be postponed until Sunday morning. The owner of Harrods, Mohamed Al-Fayed, whose son, Dodi, was also killed in the crash, has ordered that the department store will be closed on Saturday as a mark of respect.

People from all walks of life have booked the day off work and Register Offices all over the country have received calls from couples who had planned to marry at the weekend but who now wanted to postpone the ceremony.

The supermarket chain Tesco will keep all its stores closed until 2pm, and Going Places, Britain's second largest travel agent, will close its network all weekend. Many financial institutions, including the Yorkshire Bank and Birmingham, Midlands building society, will close their branches on Saturday.

Crickets NatWest Trophy Final, which would have been the biggest sporting event of the day, has now been put back until Sunday. Peter Edwards, the secretary general manager of Essex, which is to play Warwickshire, said: "Princess Diana

was a hugely popular figure and people who were due to turn up at Lord's on Saturday will now be free to say farewell and pay their respects."

A decision over the weekend's football league programme will be taken today, but Rugby Football Union officials say all league fixtures will be delayed until Sunday. RFU spokesman Richard Prescott said: "The postponement of Saturday's fixtures is a relatively small but sincere gesture from the English Rugby Partnership and the RFU to recognise the tremendous impact Princess Diana had on all our lives."

The British Horseracing Board announced that the five meetings at Haydock, Epsom, Thirk, Wolverhampton and

Stratford, scheduled for Saturday have all been scrapped. Even the annual pre-1800s Union Congress cricket match between journalists and union leaders has been called off.

The National Trust, of which the Queen Mother is president and Prince Charles is vice-president, will close all its houses, shops and restaurants until 3pm. In Portsmouth, of which the Princess was a freeman, all the city's public buildings will close on Saturday and a remembrance service will be held in the cathedral on Thursday.

Among theatres, Shakespeare's Globe, the National and the Royal Shakespeare Company have all cancelled matinee performances on the day of the funeral and a one-minute silence

will be held before many performances this week.

A gala dinner to celebrate the completion of renovation work to the Serpentine Gallery in central London, at which the Princess was to have been the guest of honour, will no longer take place on Thursday.

Hello! magazine, which so often featured Diana on its cover, will be late on the newsagents shelves. Several hundred thousand copies of this week's edition are being pulped because it carried articles about the Princess's romance with Dodi Fayed.

Yesterday, many workplaces held silences to remember the Princess. Others cancelled their day's business and stayed at home. The Prime Minister re-

mained at Downing Street after calling off two meetings, and the leaders of all the political parties opted to stall campaigning on devolution. And the heart of London's financial world stopped at 11am yesterday when thousands of City workers took a few moments to honour the late Princess.

Celebrations in Glasgow to mark the centenary of the Scottish TUC were abandoned, as was a ceremony to mark the handing over of Rosyth former naval base in Fife from the Ministry of Defence to a private consortium. Scotland's home rule referendum will, however, go ahead as planned on 11 September, the Scottish Office announced yesterday.

Football league matches today and tomorrow will go ahead, although many clubs will hold one-minute silences.

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Diana 1961-1997

the media

Press body to review photo rules

Paul McCann
Media Correspondent

The newspaper industry moved to protect itself from privacy legislation yesterday in the wake of the Princess of Wales's death when Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission (PCC), started a review of the rules covering the use of paparazzi photographs.

The move coincided with attempts by the Government to damp down speculation that its policy of opposing privacy legislation may change.

Lord Wakeham will hold talks with the editors of national newspapers as part of an investigation into the use of intrusive photographs. The investigation will also try to look at how the problem can be dealt with across frontiers.

In a statement yesterday Lord Wakeham said: "It will be some time before we know the detail of what happened in Paris, although this will undoubtedly be painstakingly pieced together as part of the French police's criminal investigations. We must clearly await the outcome of that before commenting about the circumstances of the tragic accident itself."

But he added: "We can - and must - think very seriously about the problems caused by international paparazzi photographers, which the accident has so dreadfully highlighted. I have therefore begun urgent discussions with editors across the industry to see what might be done to tackle this problem. I shall also be assessing the difficulties involved in dealing with a problem that crosses national frontiers."

Tabloid editors who make use of paparazzi photographs have maintained a collective silence since the accident but some have used their leader columns to apologise or defend themselves. The *Daily Mail* admitted it was not innocent of using paparazzi shots and called for a tougher code to be drawn up by the PCC in order to stop one being forced on newspapers by Parliament.

The *Sun* was less contrite and

ran a leader under the headline: "Don't blame the press", explaining that French tough privacy laws did not prevent the accident. The *Mirror* and the *Express* both called for more facts on the cause of the Princess's death before making any rush to judgement. One tabloid spokesman, speaking anonymously, admitted that editors will hold their silence and hope unfolding events takes them out of the firing line: "The facts emerging about the driver of the car having been drinking proves that we are right not to rush out any statements."

Meanwhile Downing Street denied yesterday that the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, was out of step with government policy on privacy legislation.

Mr Cook raised the privacy issue when he first heard of Diana's death and he returned to this theme at a breakfast for British businessmen in Singapore yesterday. "She was regarded with such love and affection by the British people and this week we will have to reflect on whether that love and affection of the British people was truly reflected in the behaviour of the British press towards her."

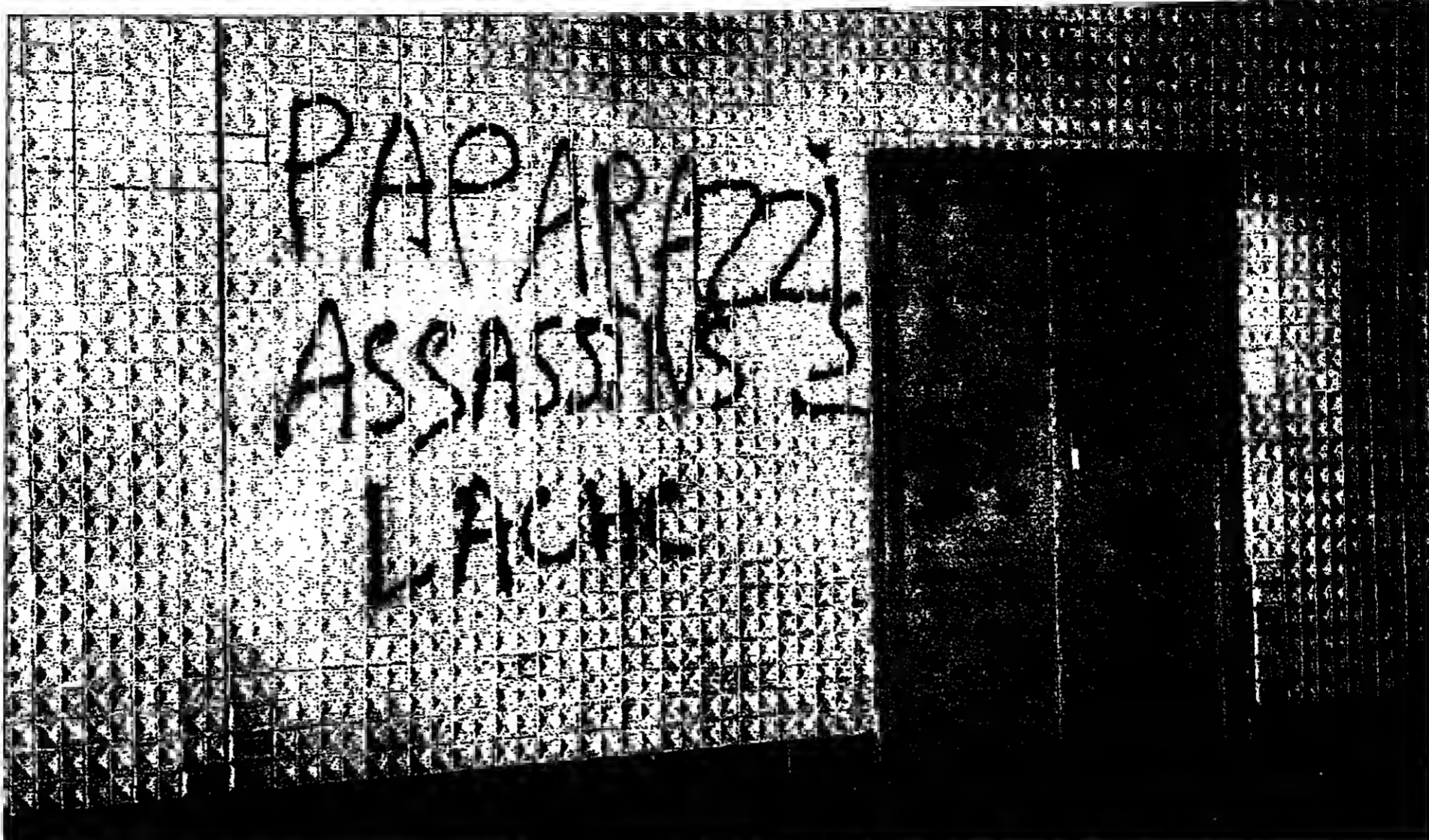
I have begun urgent talks with editors across the industry?

Lord Wakeham

Robin was saying was actually what I have said: the newspaper industry should be looking at lessons that should be learnt."

Downing Street confirmed that Tony Blair was committed to self-regulation rather than legislation. The spokesman added: "Obviously what has happened is going to fuel a huge public debate and for now we will just let that debate take place without government having to rush to any significant judgement and also mindful of the fact that the newspaper industry will be taking a good look at what lessons they might learn."

A measure of privacy protection may enter British law eventually as the Government plans to adopt the European Convention of Human Rights which contains a right to privacy. The strength of protection will depend on how the convention is interpreted by British courts.



Sign of anger: Graffiti sprayed inside the road tunnel following Saturday night's crash, reading 'paparazzi, assassins and cowards'

Photograph: Michel Spingler/AP

German tabloid paper publishes pictures of victims in wrecked car

Kim Sengupta
London
Louise Jury
Paris

It did not take long. The first photograph of the fatal crash in which Diana, Princess of Wales, died appeared on the front page of *Bild Zeitung* yesterday. The management of Germany's highest circulation tabloid, which sells four million copies a day, said they paid a lot of money for them.

The colour photograph in *Bild* shows rescuers trying to get to Diana and her companions in the wrecked Mercedes saloon. Two slumped bodies are visible, although the faces cannot be discerned.

Descriptions of photographers' behaviour, from American tourists who passed the crash site only minutes after the accident happened, were shocking. Robin, Jack and Brown Firestone from New York described five paparazzi shooting close-up pictures of the Mercedes where the princess was visible half-thrown from the car. Some of the photographers had reportedly argued amongst themselves over whether they should be taking pictures. But the most determined jostled police out of the way to do so. "I'm still distraught at what I have seen," Mrs Firestone said.

Those pictures were then hawked around the world within hours of Diana's death. The offers went, among others, to the *News of the World* in London, and the US supermarket tabloids *The National Enquirer*, *The Star* and *The Globe*.

However, in an uncharacteristic display of rectitude, Steve Cox, the *Enquirer's* editor asked his fellow tabloid editors to join him in a boycott of the photos. *Bild* obviously had no desire to join this new moral coalition, and now, the breach having been made, sales will no doubt pick up nicely.



Attracting attention: The actress Liz Hurley after her boyfriend Hugh Grant was charged with lewd conduct in Los Angeles. Right, buying a pint of milk is news if the shopper is pop star Liam Gallagher



A picture editor from *Bild* said the pictures had been bought from an agency in Paris. He refused to say if the photos came from any of the paparazzi who chased Diana and Dodi Fayed through the streets of Paris before the death.

The man, who would only give his last name, Westing, added: "We paid a lot of money for them. We have one or two more. We bought them from an agency in France. We can't sell them further."

Asked if *Bild* planned to publish more photos of the scene, Mr Westing

said: "That we don't know. This could run for a long time."

An Italian businessman, Claudio D'Allesandro, who admits dealings with the paparazzi but denies trying to market pictures of the crash, said he was "totally unsurprised" by their sale. He also said that there was a very wide variety of prices being asked for and that this was because there was a comparatively large supply of pictures available. The prices range from around £200,000 up to \$1 million in the case of the *Enquirer*.

Mr D'Allesandro said: "The French

police took eight to ten minutes to get their acts together. With modern motor drives you can take dozens of shots a minute, so you can imagine how many were taken. The police arrested seven people, but there are strong rumours that others were present and then disappeared. Even the ones arrested had enough time to hide away their rolls of film". Alastair Miller, a photographer based in Paris, said: "The real paparazzi are in it for the thrill of the chase and the money and the cloak and dagger. It's boys' toys."

In France yesterday, the newspapers

were pointing the finger of blame at the British tabloids though the arrested men were French apart from one Macedonian, they were working for the British market, it was claimed.

The paparazzi can spend weeks in tracking their prey. They do not shoot to order, but will offer any successful snaps either directly to favoured clients - say, the French magazine *Paris Match* or the American *National Enquirer* - or to agencies who negotiate their fees.

Big Pictures in London received pictures of the crash scene unsolicited on their wires early on Sunday morning from photographers who had dealt with the agency before. Though the police seized 20 rolls of film from the seven photographers arrested at the crash, it is thought at least three others escaped with their films intact.

But a source at the agency said that as soon as the situation became clear, an immediate decision was made not to deal with the photographs. "Would you want to see them?" the source asked. "I would say it was down to the individual agency, to their ethics and their morals. It's either money or respect at the end of the day. But I don't think the British papers would dare even to think about publishing them."

Alastair Miller, who has observed the paparazzi, said they operated on a different level from other photographers. "They wouldn't know a light meter. These are people with automatic cameras and synchronised flashes," he said. "They have other skills."

He characterised them as thick-skinned and stubborn with the French the most determined. "There's an inherent sense of fair play among the British. There's a limit to what they would do. The French and to some extent the Italians don't have limits."

Magazines defy criticism, page 6

Ratpack who fought royal publicity war by proxy



Richard Kay: Mail writer was close to the Princess

It is a rather tired cliché for tabloid newspapers to describe a chosen hack as "the man who really knows the Royals". Some of them, according to their colleagues, know more about the goings-on at Crystal Palace than Kensington Palace. Yesterday one of them who really did know at least one of the Royals extremely well went public. In the *Daily Mail* Richard Kay described his relationship with Diana, Princess of Wales and said she had called him just six hours before her death to discuss her future.

It was the last of many calls over the years and in retrospect must have been rather poignant for Mr Kay. Thanks to the Princess he had not only got a series of noteworthy scoops, but the pair had built up a close

Kim Sengupta on how the leak machine worked for favoured journalists

friendship. As the soap opera of "Charles and Di" unfolded across the media, the *Mail's* good-looking and urbane Royal reporter led the field in exclusives. The reason was simple - he had unique access to Diana. Not surprisingly, this led to accusations by some jealous rivals that he had become nothing but a "mouthpiece ... a poodle", charges which did not unduly worry his editor and, by proxy, his bank manager.

Charles and Diana had been sold by the Press as a match made in heaven, a fairy-tale romance ending in the spectacular Wedding of the Century. It was a media production and thus it was perhaps

fitting that its imploding should become public through the work of a journalist. Andrew Morton, former *Daily Star* royal reporter, in his book *Diana, Her Own Story*.

From then on the Press and later television was to be the conduit for the bitter acrimonious battles between the Prince and Princess of Wales. Newspapers divided into camps and their journalists were seen by the two sides as sympathetic and to be fed with juicy morsels or feared and avoided.

Stories about Royalty, especially the younger ones, and especially Charles and Diana, sold newspapers and became ammunition in the circulation

war between the tabloids. Here *The Sun* had a natural advantage. Its editor, Stuart Higgins, had known Camilla Parker Bowles ever since he was a West Country district reporter for the paper and had kept in assiduous contact. This paid off handsomely with a series of exclusives, some but not all buttressing the Charles-Camilla camp.

The Sun's contribution was recognised in a commendation in the Scoop of the Year category for 1994 in the *UKPG* awards. This time the recipient was their highly praised Royal reporter, Wayne Francis, for a story he had brought in about Camilla Parker Bowles getting

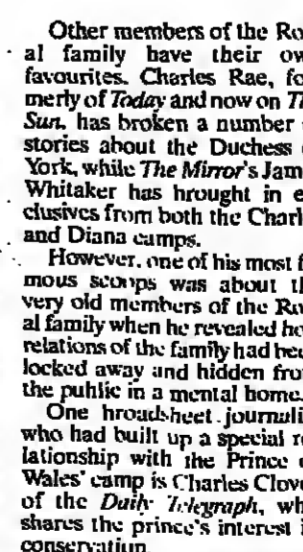
divorced from her husband. The following year Mr Higgins himself got an award on another divorce story, about the Queen writing to Charles about parting from Diana.

Other Royal journalists also picked up their share of exclusives as each camp jockeyed with the other for the most favoured publicity. Clive Goodman, of the *News of the World*, found himself at home carrying out a mobile-phone conversation with Princess Diana in which she told him about her night-time mercy visits to hospitals. The paper had been staking her out in the hope of catching her seeing another man.

Other members of the Royal family have their own favourites. Charles Rae, formerly of *Today* and now on *The Sun*, has broken a number of stories about the Duchess of York, while *The Mirror's* James Whitaker has brought in exclusives from both the Charles and Diana camps.

However, one of his most famous scoops was about the very old members of the Royal family when he revealed how relations of the family had been locked away and hidden from the public in a mental home.

One broadsheet journalist who had built up a special relationship with the Prince of Wales' camp is Charles Clover of the *Daily Telegraph*, who shares the prince's interest in conservation.



James Whitaker: The Mirror's expert on the Royal Family

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No headlong rush for a privacy law

There will be no headlong rush to introduce a new privacy law, Downing Street suggested yesterday, writes Patricia Wynn Davies, *Legal Affairs* Correspondent.

Laws on intimidation, intrusion and the wrongful use of confidential information exist and the impact of these, such as the recent Protection from Harassment Act, need to be tested before more regulation is contemplated.

There are strong public-interest arguments for seeking to ensure that

last weekend's tragedy does not result in unjustified restrictions on freedom of expression. There are fears that the Protection from Harassment Act - the "stalking" law introduced in June - is too heavy-handed and could be used to hamper investigative journalism and legitimate protests. The first injunctions granted under the act concerned not sex pests, but animal-rights activists.

Before that, Diana, Princess of Wales, secured an injunction, under

existing laws on intimidation and harassment, against a freelance photographer, Martin Stenning. The Queen also issued lawyers' letters to four photographers warning of legal action if they infringed the Royal Family's privacy during last year's summer holiday at Balmoral.

Moves towards some sort of distinct new right of privacy are inevitable, however, because of the Government's commitment to make the European Convention on Human Rights part of UK law.

the tributes

Diana 1961-1997

Grief shared in silent sanctuary

Police wait to hear crucial testimony



Rees-Jones: Key witness

Kim Sengupta

One man's testimony is expected to be crucial in the French police investigation into the car crash which killed the Princess of Wales and Dodi Fayed. Trevor Rees-Jones, the bodyguard who survived the accident, was yesterday seriously ill at the Pitié-Salpêtrière hospital in Paris - where the attempts were made to save Diana's life - with head, face and chest injuries.

However, they are not life-threatening injuries and police want to interview the 29-year-old former paratrooper as soon as they get the go-ahead from doctors. He will be questioned about the paparazzi chase just before the crash, and he is also expected to be asked if he had any knowledge of the alcohol consumed by the driver of the Mercedes.

Mr Rees-Jones, a Gulf War veteran, is a member of the 40-strong Fayed protection team and acted as Dodi's "bodyguard". He was with Diana and Dodi while they holidayed in Sardinia and then dined at the Paris Ritz Hotel before the fatal car journey.

His estranged wife, Sue, his mother, Gill, and his stepfather, Ernie Jones, were at his bedside yesterday. They are staying at the home of Harrods owner Mohamed al-Fayed while in Paris.

Mr Rees-Jones, from Whittington, Shropshire, has worked as a protection officer for three years. While in the Army he had carried out two tours of duty in Northern Ireland. He met his wife while she was working as a Harrods buyer, and they were married two years ago.

His father-in-law, Iwan Jones, said: "He is in and out of consciousness, they [the family] said they have seen his eyes open only once, but he was aware that they were there."

"The family said they were encouraged by what the medical team had told them."



People queuing to pay their respects and sign the book of condolence at St James's Palace, where the Princess's body lay in a private chapel

Photograph: Brian Harris

Clare Garner
St James's Palace

The long wait on The Mall somehow provided an outlet for their grief and opportunity to meditate on what the death of the Princess of Wales meant to them. They were alone with their thoughts, while simultaneously gaining strength from the overwhelming sense of solidarity.

"I didn't realise until she died how much she did really," said Rachel Haile, her voice faltering. "I've never really been interested in the Royal family. I don't particularly admire them," the 22-year-old English literature student stammered.

There were tens of thousands paying homage and last night the huge crowds led police to close the roads around Buckingham Palace until Sunday after the Princess's funeral. The queue to go inside the Palace to sign books of condolence snaked

up and down the Mall. Bunches of flowers arrived in their thousands. Nobody seemed to care how long they stood in line.

Those joining at lunchtime were told it would be an estimated four to six hours before they would be inside the palace. "The time doesn't mean anything to me," Miss Haile continued. "Flowers are a token, but they will last maybe a couple of days. The books will be a memory for the nation and her sons forever."

Mark Markbudett, 30, put his arm around his girlfriend to comfort her. They had both taken the day off from their jobs in the music industry. "I don't know why I'm here," he admitted. "It's not me at all. I don't know why I'm so affected."

Susan Jarrett, a 39-year-old advertising agency supervisor, had also taken the day off so that she could bring her children to commemorate the Princess's death. She was equally taken aback by the

measure of her grief. "I've got no time for the Royals. I've never laid flowers anywhere and I've never signed a book of condolence, but I've taken time off work and I'd do again, and again, and again."

Others had a clearer idea why

as "very relaxed, a nice, charming lady".

Some, such as Richard Jarman, the former general administrator of the English National Ballet, had known the Princess in a professional capacity. Others, such as Paul Cap-

yard towards trestle tables which, covered with sheets, gave the impression of a street party in the making. Once inside the building, any sense of unreality subsided, knowing that the embalmers' Princess was under the same roof.

The silence was intoxicating. Individuals padded across the red carpet into an immaculate room which looked as if it had been furnished for the sole purpose of writing memorial messages. Five large tables, blanketed in thick, dark blue felt, were equally spaced along one wall; a black leather-bound ring file filled with blank white pages lay open on each table. Red velvet chairs with gold backs which matched the curtains, along with the oil portraits on the wall, completed what could have been an intimidating setting.

But despite the royal trappings, the experience was in no way stifling, no one was hurried - some sat

down and wrote for 15 minutes - and cameras were prohibited. It was a silent sanctuary where the police presence was virtually invisible and The Mall apparently a million miles away. It was a time to grieve, to put one's private thoughts on paper.

Mr Capper emerged blinking in the sunshine. "I've never experienced anything like it. I've never seen quite so many people with quite such tearful eyes. And some of the things that have been written are so beautiful."

"You have to go in there to experience it and to see everyone so quiet and silent, some people not knowing why they are there at all. It's a very, very strange feeling. I can't quite comprehend it."

Anne Kersey, a 40-year-old former airline stewardess, the first member of the public to enter the palace at 10am yesterday morning, summed up the experience in five words: "It's so sad in there."

You have to go in there to experience it... It's a very, very strange feeling

Paul Capper

they were there. Many had met the Princess Diana in person or had a relative who had done so. Anne Marie O'Brien, a teacher at the British Institute in Florence, who had met the Princess when she was on an official visit, remembered her

per, a trustee of the Tony Gibbons Aids Trust, in Southampton, had hoped to. "Obviously it wasn't meant to be," he said.

The mourners were admitted to St James's Palace in groups of 10. They were ushered across the court-

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Richard Branson

Diana 1961-1997

the world view

Royals screened from prying eyes

Other monarchies have so far kept the media at bay

Matthew Chance and Richard Lloyd Parry

Europe's royals have, until recently, suffered little from the prying eyes and lenses of the press - a consequence of the higher esteem they enjoy than their British counterparts and a stronger sense among the media of the barrier between royal public and private lives.

Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands has only to inform the Dutch press of what is official business and what is a private event for the local press to leave the royal family well alone.

King Juan Carlos of Spain, too, has enjoyed the respectful attention of a media, whose attitudes were shaped by the sense of national gratitude for his role in guiding Spain to democracy after the death of General Franco.

The Danish press is just as protective of its royal family, recently refusing to run a series of photographs showing Crown Prince Frederik in the nude, sunbathing with a female friend.

The authoritarian monarchs of the Middle East and the Gulf, such as King Hussein of Jordan, wield enormous political power. Their problem is political agitation against their prerogatives, not vicious gossip columnists and over-bold paparazzi. But neither is there

much gossip about the remaining thrones of Asia, even when, as in Japan, the crown has been stripped of all political powers.

Thailand has stern criminal laws shielding the image of its hugely popular King Bhumibol Adulyadej and his immediate family: a slip of the tongue about any of the royals could result in a hefty prison sentence of up to 15 years. In practice, this Draconian legislation is rarely needed, such a strong culture is there of respect amongst Thais for their monarch. Every day at 6pm, television and radio programming is interrupted while the national anthem is played. In parks around the city, joggers stand to attention while the anthem is piped through the trees from loudspeakers. In Thai cinemas, everyone stands in silence while pictures of the king are shown on the screen.

In neighbouring Cambodia, King Norodom Sihanouk remains for many a god-like figure. His return to Cambodia from China last week was an occasion for celebration for many Cambodians. If problems arise, his entourage of bodyguards, a gift from the late Kim Il Sung of North Korea, are there to shield him. Journalists and photographers who overstep the mark feel the blow of a fist.

In Japan, the family of the emperor is surrounded by a media silence that is partly self-censorship, but partly also a result of their own failure to do or say anything interesting.

For the first 2,000 years of their history, the Japanese imperial family were considered semi-divine and above comment. Things got more interesting in the Fifties when the present Emperor Akihito - then Crown Prince - became the first imperial to marry a commoner. And there was great excitement in 1993 when his son Naruhito married Masako Owada, a diplomat. But since then

imperial life has settled into a round of tree-planting and the occasional news conference.

But the British Royal Family's problems with an intrusive press may be spreading. Last week, Sweden's popular king, Carl Gustav, had a yelling match with a television crew who had followed him on a hunting expedition. And in the Netherlands, there have been fisticuffs between the security men surrounding Queen Beatrix's son and heir, Prince Willem-Alexander, and the press.

The deference Cambodians pay to King Sihanouk has not been extended to his son, Prince Ranariddh, who was exiled in a recent coup. Even in Japan, there is increasingly audacious imperial gossip, although seldom are scandals more than hinted at. By means of a closed reporters' "club", the Imperial Household Agency controls the flow of official news and deals sternly with those who deviate. When *The Independent* last year reported the IHA's investigations into changing the law to allow a woman to succeed to the Chrysanthemum Throne, it was summoned for an official dressing down at the palace.



Discreet lives and deference: Queen Beatrix and Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands and their children (above) on their bikes; King Hussein of Jordan (left), paying his respects to the memory of Diana, Princess of Wales; King Bhumibol of Thailand, his consort Queen Sirikit (below) and their daughters; and King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia (right) yesterday praying for peace in his country



Europe's magazines defend intrusive pictures

Rupert Cornwell

Inevitably, given the quasi-mythical status of the victim, the odd conspiracy theory has tried to raise its head. But around the world, almost unanimously, the finger of blame for the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, was yesterday pointing at the paparazzi. And the paparazzi, or rather those who buy their wares, were fighting back.

From Russia to Japan, from New Zealand to the Caucasus republic of Georgia, came attacks on the intrusive journalism which, many say, indirectly cost Diana her life. "She was hounded," Jim Bolger, New Zealand's Prime Minister, charged - a grievance so acutely felt by seven construction workers in Christchurch that they attacked a woman photographer taking pictures of an industrial accident.

"People of the world should think over this tragic fact," President Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia declared. "Democracy does not mean the right to interfere in another person's private life."

Celebrities who had felt the sharp end of the paparazzi were even more outspoken: The opera star Luciano Pavarotti demanded a law to protect ordinary citizens, while Sylvester Stallone condemned a "small renegade group of the press who are legalised stalkers. I am horrified and disgusted, but I knew it would happen in the end."

But in Italy and Germany, where appetites for intimate photos of the famous are at least as large as in Britain, tabloid and magazine editors were giving as good as they got. The publishers of the largest German tabloid, *Bild*, said the company felt no responsibility for what had happened in Paris.

And well before the possibly mitigating revelation that the driver of the Mercedes had illegal amounts of alcohol in his blood, the Italian media was mounting its own vigorous defence. "The mass media on trial," ran some headlines, but the newspaper *Il Giornale* wrote that readers who devoured every salacious shot by the paparazzi were at least as guilty as the paparazzi themselves.

Even so some predictable cross-channel blame-mongering was to be seen. British tabloid editors insisted that foreign photographers had pursued the car carrying Diana and Dodi Fayed. Their French counterparts however claimed the paparazzi only operated because British tabloids and others bought their pictures.

Meanwhile, even in Italy, which gave the world the science of *dirotologia* or "behind-ology," practitioners were hard pressed to find a conspiracy. A few did doggedly maintain that all could not be as it appeared - that the Royal Family and the British establishment were to blame, if not for her death, at least for the sadnesses of her life. But reports hinting at foul play by MI6 or agents of the Monarchy, intent on ridding themselves of a troublesome couple, were going nowhere.

Only in the Fayed's homeland of Egypt and in cyberspace have there been serious attempts to run conspiratorial hares. The car crash had been organised by the British, charged some Egyptian papers. On the Internet discussion group *alt.conspiracy.princess-diana* "Not The Whole Truth About Cause Of Accident?" was the hottest topic of debate.

A slip of the tongue about a royal could earn up to 15 years in a Thai jail

Mines treaty may be named after princess

Inna Karacs Oslo

Diplomats from more than 100 countries stood for a minute's silence yesterday in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, and vowed to carry on her struggle to banish all anti-personnel landmines from the face of the Earth.

The delegates have gathered in Oslo to hammer out the last details of an international treaty, and the princess had been due to crown her campaign with an appearance. "Her tragic death has made a deep impression on all of us," said Bjorn Tore Godal, the Norwegian Foreign Minister and host to the delegates. "We shall spare no effort at this conference to achieve the goals she had set for herself."

Mr Godal praised her "drive to increase public awareness of a menace which still kills or maims somebody every 20 minutes around the world."

The US are now full participants in the process for the first time - shamed into acquiescence last month partly by Diana's barn-storming visit to Washington. Though US delegates refused to acknowledge a connection yesterday between Diana's intervention and their



Jack Lang: Yesterday proposed 'The Princess Diana Treaty'

government's sudden U-turn, other politicians were in more generous mood. Jack Lang, head of the Foreign Affairs committee of the French Parliament, proposed that the global ban should for ever be associated with her name. "It would be an act of justice for the treaty to be called the Princess Diana Treaty," Mr Lang said in Paris. The campaigners who had tolled in obscurity until Diana descended among them in a halo of flash-light, have no doubt that the princess was responsible for bringing the world's greatest military power on board.

Susan Walker, of the charity Handicapped International, recalls: "We said to her: 'You're going to the US next week. Please tell the public that the US position is abominable.' 'You mean I should be as brutal as possible?' Diana is said to have asked. 'Brutal. In a humane way,' came the reply. 'After meeting her, I really became a very big fan of her.' Ms Walker confides: "She studied the issue, really cared, was really committed."

Now the US, having jumped on the bandwagon, wishes to slow it down. "We have fundamental concerns, because we are a superpower," explains Mark Graham, a member of the US delegation. Washington wants to preserve the minefields that separate the two Koreas a bit longer, and sees technical difficulties in eradicating anti-personnel mines fused with anti-tank booby traps.

Nevertheless, US officials seem confident that they will submit themselves to the treaty, perhaps as early as December, when the 105 states committed to a global ban are scheduled to sign it in Ottawa. If that happens, the world will have taken a big step forward, but it may take quite a bit longer to eradicate landmines completely.

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Solutions for a small planet

Rival: The site at King's Cross which may be developed as a new convention centre Photograph: Andrew Buurman

The proposals, which have the backing of the Confederation of British Industry and the London Chamber of Commerce, create problems for government officials trying to find a lasting role for the

By comparison, the Wembley Conference Centre, London's biggest such venue, holds only 2,700 and the Birmingham International Convention Centre holds 2,200. The largest facility in Britain is the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow which caters for

One of the driving forces behind the King's Cross plans is the Council of Science and Technology Institutes, which represents 10,000 British scientists.

David Edwards of Ove Arup, consultants to the project, said

"People will want their ac-

He said that a major sports centre run by the English Sports Council was a more likely option, but an exhibition centre was also being considered.

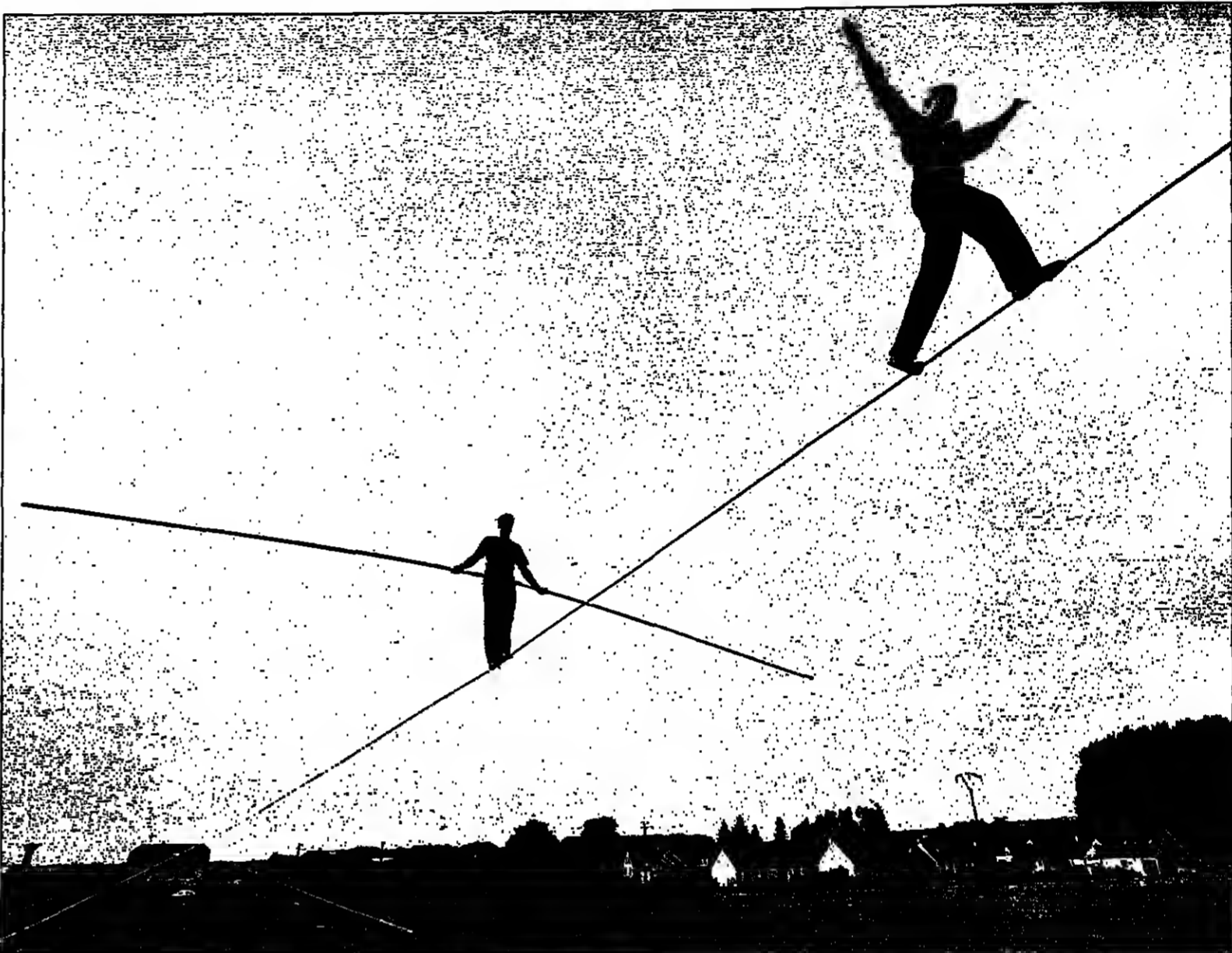
Appropriately 1997 is the centenary of the death of the most famous wire-walker ever, Gravelet, better known as Blondin. In 1859 he walked across Niagara Falls but although he settled in London he never attempted to cross the river. In fact, the distinction of the first successful crossing belongs to a woman, Madame Genevieve. After two attempts she finally succeeded in 1861. A writer at the time described it taking place "in the light of the declining sun, her gold-bro-

Both performers have identical scars on their shoulders where, in separate incidents, their tricks have backfired. Yet falling off the wire is a prospect that neither of them give much

Strangely both walkers fiercely deny that they are danger junkies. "We're not addicted to the rush," Mr Kindar-Martin said. "I don't even drive fast."

However, he added that balance is a "magical thing". "Sometimes you have it, sometimes you don't," he shrugged.

The police are already predicting that 60,000 people will turn out to watch this spectacle.



High art: Didier Pasquette and Jade Kindar-Martin training in Tranel, near Paris, for their attempt on the Thames

Photograph: David Rose

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The two sides issued no statement after their meeting, in deference to the mourning period for Diana, Princess of Wales. It was the first time the heads of

Mr Trimble and senior party members met Archbishop Sean Brady and other church representatives in the city of Armagh, the religious epicentre for both Irish Catholics and Protes-

The meeting was one of a series in a consultation exercise undertaken by the Ulster Unionists in advance of the multi-party talks on Northern Ireland's future which open later this month. The party is divided on whether to take part in them, since the Government has formally confirmed that Sinn Féin

will be there. An initial plenary session is to take place a week today, with talks proper due to open on 15 September.

Last week, two party MPs, William Thompson and William Ross, came out strongly against any participation in the talks. Mr Ross declared: "The view of many is that we should have nothing to do with these thugs."

These statements have stirred speculation that they represent a direct challenge to Mr Trimble's authority.

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international

Foulkes is spared blast on volcano isle

Phil Davison

If he had feared a "cataclysmic volcanic eruption" - his own much-quoted words of two weeks ago - or just a hail of rotten eggs from hecklers, George Foulkes, Britain's international development minister, ran into neither when he arrived on the Caribbean island of Montserrat yesterday. The Soufriere Hills volcano,

which he said two weeks ago could engulf the whole British colony, spewed ash clouds but kept quiet as Mr Foulkes flew in by helicopter from neighbouring Antigua on a fact-finding mission for the Prime Minister Tony Blair. The islanders were too polite, or simply disinterested, to protest.

"People here are still very sad, thinking of Princess Di. We are all too much in mourning to

care about this government man," said Jane Sweeney, owner of a tiny wooden shack bar next to the helicopter landing pad at Gerald's Bottom in the northern "safe zone" of the island. A few refugees left their nearby tent shelters to watch the British governor Frank Savage and Montserrat's Chief Minister David Brandt greet the envoy.

Mr Foulkes was the man

whose "cataclysm" remarks, and suggestion that even the north was unsafe, triggered an evacuation, a media invasion, the overthrow of the local government chief and a rebuff for his boss, Clare Short. British scientists said his remarks were "hopelessly wrong".

In an attempt to put him straight, the scientists took him up on their own helicopter yesterday for a flight around the

crater and a look at the devastated capital, Plymouth, and other stricken villages, as well as the "safe zone". He then went into talks with Mr Brandt, who was reported to have rebuked him and called for urgent British material and moral support for the between 4 to 5,000 Montserratians now squeezed into the tiny northern zone. At least 6,000 islanders have fled to other islands.

"The clear message we are taking on this visit is that Britain will never abandon the people and the island of Montserrat," said Mr Foulkes. Responding to Mr Brandt's suggestion that any compensation should be for those islanders who stay as well as those who leave, he said he wanted to emphasise that Montserratians should have the option of going or staying.

"One of the things we will be

doing is to determine what are the basic facilities that need to be provided in health, education, transportation and housing in the north to make life tolerable initially, and ultimately comfortable for those who wish to remain on the island."

Islanders, most of whom have lost everything they owned, were taken aback two weeks ago when Ms Short, then

in charge of the British response to the crisis, accused them of whingeing. "They'll be wanting golden elephants next," she said.

Appearing to confirm that his boss had been removed from the Montserrat loop, Mr Foulkes said on his way to Montserrat: "[Mr Blair] told me he wanted me to resolve the situation and that he was relying on me to do that."

Yeltsin vows not to seek a third term

Phil Reeves
Moscow

Boris Yeltsin yesterday sought to scotch speculation that he will seek another stint in the Kremlin, saying he intends to stand down when his term expires.

A year ago, any suggestion that the then sick and absentee president would continue in office into the next century would have been met by guffaws but his apparent recovery from heart problems prompted suggestions that he intends to hang on into his old age.

Yesterday, however, Mr Yeltsin, 66, was explicit: "My term ends in 2000. I will not, of course, run again," he said during an address marking the start of the school year. Under the constitution, the president is limited to two terms but some commentators have suggested Mr Yeltsin could find a



Yeltsin: Fortunes on the mend, but still looks weary

way around this law, as the constitution was only passed by referendum in 1993, two years after he was first elected.

Although he still looks weary at times, Mr Yeltsin's fortunes have much improved since his heart operation in November and the pneumonia which followed. Yesterday he seemed relaxed and fit as he met Roman Herzog, President of his closest West European ally, Germany.

Mr Yeltsin's remarks are certain to intensify jockeying among contenders for his job, who have been trying to elbow their way into the limelight since shortly after his re-election in July 1996. Thrusting to the fore is the Mayor of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov, a tough-talking and flamboyant city boss who this plays host to lavish celebrations marking the capital's 850th anniversary.

Others tipped to run include Alexander Lebed, the erstwhile security chief, the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, and Boris Nemtsov, First Deputy Prime Minister.

Germany would seek to return stolen fragments of the Amber Room to Russia, Mr Herzog said. During the war Nazi forces dismantled a room in the Tsarskoe Selo palace near St Petersburg consisting of amber wall panels, a gift from King Friedrich Wilhelm I. They disappeared but a mosaic of marble and semi-precious stones and a chest of drawers turned up in Germany in May.



Head start: Japanese children wearing flameproof and waterproof headgear during an anti-earthquake drill at a Tokyo elementary school yesterday for Disaster Prevention Day, which marks the anniversary of the 1923 Kanto earthquake which left 140,000 people dead and 100,000 injured. Photograph: Erika Sugita/Reuters

Cook declares an opium war on Burma

Agencies

Robin Cook yesterday condemned the Burmese government for profiting from the drugs trade and said it would not be admitted to a summit of European and Asian nations next year.

The Foreign Secretary told a meeting of business leaders in Singapore that Europe's recent decision to deny visas to senior Burmese officials made their inclusion at the Asia-Eu-

rope Meeting (Asem) in London in April "impossible".

Asem is a forum linking the 15 members of the European Union with Japan, China, South Korea and some members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean).

Asean admitted Burma to its ranks this year, despite heavy Western criticism of Rangoon's record on human rights and its flourishing drugs trade.

"There is a common European position across all Euro-

pean countries not to grant visas to ministers from Burma, which will make it impossible for us to consider the inclusion of Burma in the Asean process next year," Mr Cook said at the end of a four-nation tour of South-East Asia.

"Burma is the largest single world producer of opium, and it has achieved that infamous position precisely because it is a government that does not act against the drug barons," he said. He added: "It is not only a

deeply repressive regime, but it is also a deeply irresponsible regime in that it is one of the few governments in the world whose members are prepared to profit out of the drugs trade rather than to seek to suppress the drugs trade."

Mr Cook told a news conference before leaving for home that Britain could bar Burma from the summit because Asem was not a bloc-to-bloc meeting but a voluntary dialogue between nations.

He said he had found "deep common recognition" of the problem of Burma in the Asian capitals he had visited "both in terms of its government system and in terms of the convenience of the government in the drugs trade."

But he said there was "an honest difference of approach" as to how to resolve the issue and persuade Rangoon's State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) to change. "In Europe, we have taken

the view that we cannot have dialogue with a government that is both as repressive as Slorc and as irresponsible in its complicity with the drug barons," he said.

"In South-East Asia there is, particularly in Asean, a belief that the best way forward is for dialogue with Slorc. What I have found encouraging is that there is in every capital I have been to a recognition that there is a serious problem here that must be addressed."

significant shorts

Israel eases Palestinian ban as goodwill gesture

Israel is to allow a limited number of Palestinians to return to Israel for the first time since suicide bombers killed 15 people in Jerusalem a month ago. The Israeli army said 4,000 Palestinians, married and over the age of 35, can enter Israel. The move is apparently a goodwill measure in the lead-up to the first visit by Madeleine Albright as US Secretary of State to Israel. The easing of the economic siege of the West Bank and Gaza is only marginal and the Palestinian economy continues to lose \$6m a day because Palestinians cannot get to work or export goods. Before the bombings on 30 July, 51,000 Palestinians worked in the Israeli economy. Patrick Cockburn - Jerusalem

Serbs attack US troops

Supporters of Radovan Karadzic stoned US soldiers at a television transmitter secured after backers of the war-crimes suspect broadcast calls for violence against foreign organisations. As the crowd of Bosnian Serb hardliners grew, the troops fired tear-gas. Soldiers took control of Udrigovo transmitter on Mt Majevica to prevent rival Serb factions fighting for its control. AP - Banja Luka

Enclave's vote of defiance

The people of Nagorno Karabakh, a rugged stretch of land at the heart of a decade-long war between Azeris and Armenians, held elections for a new president despite foreign pressure to abandon the poll. Nagorno Karabakh's "foreign minister", a lawyer, Arkady Gukasyan, is expected easily to defeat two other candidates. He has dismissed as unacceptable a peace plan proposed by Western countries and Russia, acting as mediators. Reuters - Stepanakert

Islamist under house arrest

The Algerian authorities put the radical Islamist leader Abassi Madani under house arrest. Mr Madani, founder of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front, was banned from leaving his house, could only see family members and could be returned to jail if he made any more political comments. Reuters - Paris

Language of hate

The deputy chairman of the commission investigating South Africa's apartheid abuses said right-wingers were conducting a hate campaign against him, including death-threats. Alex Boraine, deputy to Archbishop Desmond Tutu on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, said he received 30 such calls in the past week. "All the calls are from Afrikaans-speaking South Africans... the language which is used is extremely racist." Reuters - Cape Town

Light meal

Some female fireflies lure males of another species with promises of sex but eat them instead to obtain a chemical which deters predators, said a Cornell University study. The females of the species *Photinus versicolor* imitate the light signals with which females of the species *Photinus ignitus* respond to courtship by their own males. Some of the males, which contain useful chemicals known as lucibufagins, fall for it and end up dead. "Mimicry and murder provide a life-saving meal," said the Cornell researchers. Reuters - Washington

Family that can find no hiding place from Kenya's bloodstained elections

Run-up to voting brings return of the savagery seen before the last polls in 1992. James Roberts reports from Mombasa

For many Kenyans, the violent run-up to elections due to take place before the end of this year brings powerful feelings of déjà vu. The government's tight grip on the media, the lack of an obvious challenger to President Daniel arap Moi, the apocalyptic political language, the flawed voter registration exercise and the bloodcurdling activities of mysterious militias in outlying parts of the country will all be familiar to those who remember the last time Mr Moi faced the people in 1992.

For some, though, the events now being experienced for the second time have a familiarity that is especially chilling. Edward Luswet, holed up in the grounds of the Holy Ghost Cathedral in Mombasa, is one of these. In 1992, it was the Rift Valley where people were driven from their homes by the threat of armed raiders coming in the night to carry out atrocities. Today it is the coastal region around Mombasa. Mr Luswet has the distinction of having been driven out of his home in Molo in the Rift Valley in 1992, and his home in Likoni near Mombasa just this week.

What is particularly disturbing is the similarity of the two experiences. In 1992, the first indication that his house in Molo might be under threat was the appearance of pamphlets that said no non-Kalenjin were wanted in the area. That meant no Luo, no Luhya, no Kisi, no Kikuyu. President Moi is a Kalenjin. As a Bukusu, Mr Luswet found himself in the unwanted category. So, late one night masked raiders - armed, as they were last week, with swords, guns, knives and the small axes that are used in butchery - tried to burn down his house while he and his family were inside. They set off

explosives and poured petrol around the house.

The family felt the heat of the burning roof and Mr Luswet's youngest daughter, Mary Anna, then three, started to cry. Mr Luswet prevented his wife from screaming and kept the family inside the house. He knew if they ran out, they would be killed and hoped the brick walls would protect them for

As the house burned, the raiders fired around it. Then a 5kg gas cylinder in the kitchen exploded. "God gave us refuge," said 40-year-old Mr Luswet. "The wind was blowing through the trees and it blew the flames onto the raiders. The flames scattered them. Some were burned in their faces. They carried away one who had been burned in the face."

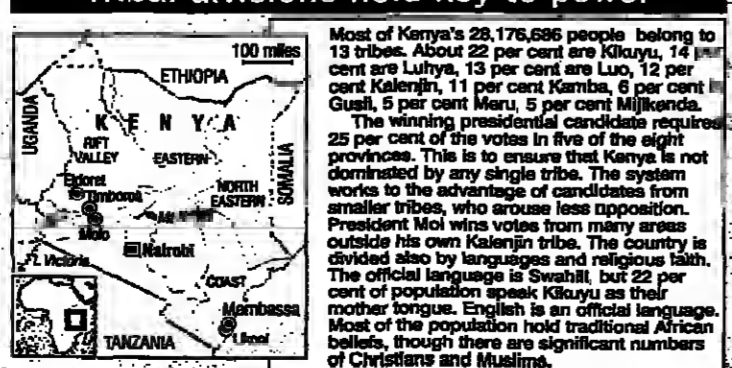
refuge in St Mary's Church in Molo. Letters were dropped there warning that the refugees must not assume they were safe from attack because they were in a church. Then a raid followed in which five refugees were killed. "Whatever happens now, I am very alert," said Mr Luswet. He described the events that had brought him to this shed at the back of the cathedral.

First of all they got pamphlets, he said. This time they said "no non-Mikenda" - that is no people who do not belong to the nine clans around the coast. Mr Luswet's family was one of a number who rented rooms from a Likoni shopkeeper. However, this man was from outside the area and when the pamphlets came he closed his shop and went away. Most of the tenants remained, but were not made to feel any easier by the seemingly casual remarks dropped by their neighbours that "things were getting hotter".

One night just over a week ago, they got very hot. "We heard shooting and sorrowful cries," he said, "so we kept quiet. I turned off the lantern and ordered everyone to sleep. Near my bed, outside the bedroom, I heard people speaking. They were asking if the house in which I was staying belonged to coastal people. Some others said that it did."

After about five minutes, he again opened the window very quietly and saw a group of more than 80 people, armed much as they had been the last time. "They saw two people and told them to stop, but the two people - we

Tribal divisions hold key to power



a while. He quietly opened his window at the back of the house, where he had planted some cypress trees. He, his wife and four children slipped out and hid in the stems and branches of the trees. Mary Anna was so acutely aware of the danger that she made no noise at all until it was almost dawn.

For the next five days, the Luswets hid during the day and walked at night towards Timbora, 30km away, and then onto Eldoret, where no one knew them and they could make plans to get to his ancestral home in Bungoma. Later, they heard that some of their former neighbours had taken

Charles can no longer hide from reality

The death of the Princess was accidental. Nobody wanted it. And yet the event is entwined in circles of causality. Had the driver been fit, had those freelance photographers not been so avid, had magazine and newspaper editors' chequebooks here and overseas not been so open, had the public not been so avid for images... And somewhere in that chain of contingencies, in some people's minds, sit the heir to the throne and his mistress, Camilla Parker Bowles. Put that more bluntly. A lot of people hold the Prince of Wales responsible for his ex-wife's sorry end – not directly responsible, but somehow culpable because her death and its manner seems as if it is an extension of the sadness of her life. The point is not whether that judgement is fair or unfair, whether the voyeuristic public can ever untangle the details of a failed marriage and appropriate blame; the point is that Charles, who was already tainted in many people's minds by the divorce, is now for some of them a marked man.

If he and his entourage think that after the solemnities of the funeral it will be business as usual, they are misleading themselves. A period of profound reflection in and about the future of the House of Windsor is now necessary. If ever there was an occasion for the Prince of Wales to show

that he has not been entirely intellectually and imaginatively stifled by his upbringing and adult captivity, this is it. He needs, for once, not just to talk to people outside the circle, but to listen to them and their appraisals of the public mood. Those people necessarily include the Prime Minister, who himself needs to rub the stardust from his eyes and prepare to offer Charles some hard home truths about what he and his elder son are now to do with their lives. To those who say getting involved with royal business of New Labour, the reply has to be that the Royal Family's fate does matter. Like it or not, the Royal Family figures centrally in the values of modern Britain, even though it is one of our least modern institutions. Besides, the accession of either Charles or his son would present an unmissable occasion for constitutional reform.

The Queen is 71, already loog past the age she might comfortably have retired. Prince William is 15, surely no more than a decade away from an age at which he might succeed. If the House of Windsor were indeed a "firm", a strategic decision should already have been taken about the succession. Even as dysfunctional an enterprise as this has turned out to be would now be looking to maximise its assets; an unsullied young prince is certainly one. But his preparation will take exceptional care and attention. If

Prince William was not deeply disturbed by his parents' separation, his mother's misery, and his father's peculiarly remote life, he must surely now be devastated by the loss of his mother. Sending the boy to Eton was hardly calculated to be a sign of an open and modern monarchy, well-tuned to the popular mood, let alone a means of ensuring the boy was emotionally competent. Imaginative thinking is needed about what kind of role he is to fill until he succeeds to the throne. Where will he travel in Britain and overseas, who is he to meet, what causes should he make his own?

Prince William, it is thought, hates the processes of the press, the interviews, the continuous and intrusive surveillance. The circumstances of his mother's death must, if anything, heighten his feelings of revulsion. Yet one certain thing in the boy's future is that he will have to learn to live with the interest of journalists and photographers. If his father's moral credit were greater, he would be in a position to insist that the British press at least observe certain ground rules, at least while the prince is in his minority. As it is, there appear to be two options. One (which is sadly more likely) is that

the Royal Family will, the Diana experience over, revert to type, dust off its tweeds and live its life behind the hedges and corpses of its country estates. This "Balmoral" strategy could see the princes kept close. The quid pro quo would naturally be an end to Prince Charles's ham-fisted attempts to parade his mistress before the public in an attempt to win public acceptance of his re-marriage. This, of course, is no preparation for an heir to the throne of a 21st-century country trying to re-invent itself as open, modern and creative.

The alternative would be some combination of privacy law and/or lasting commitments on the part of tabloid editors and proprietors not to intrude on the lives of the princes. There would need to be give and take – an arranged photocall here, an interview there, but the benefit for Prince William particularly could be immense: he might even be allowed to live something approaching a normal teenage life (which if it were normal would have to include sexual experiment, even acquaintance with illicit substances). It would also have to include familiarisation with the real world, trips, tours and badinage with press photographers.

It is wishful thinking, to be sure, to believe that the demands of tabloid readers and therefore their editors are suddenly going to change, or that

paparazzi are going to quietly creep back into the shadows, even after what happened on Sunday morning in Paris. But the public mood is sombre, and concerned that no such tragic sequence of events occurs again. For this reason alone, Prince Charles needs to find for his sons a broader preparation for life, and greater emotional care, than he seems to have enjoyed. The future of the family may depend on it.

Dilly-Dallying unfair to voters

The case made yesterday by Tam Dalyell for postponing the referendum on the future government of Scotland is spurious. Scottish voters have had the arguments for and against devolution swathing around their consciousness for years and years – and, let's not forget, did vote on the question in 1978. That the attention of the nation(s) has been arrested by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales this week is by the by. Mr Dalyell should exhibit a little more confidence in the good sense of his constituents and the Scottish people: the decision they make on 11 September will reflect their deep-seated and long-held beliefs about the way their country should be governed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Diana, latest victim of the car culture

Sir: We are hearing, quite rightly, of Diana, Princess of Wales's achievements in turning round public and political opinion on many issues, especially Aids and landmines. She has, without doubt, enhanced and saved lives. It seems her death might bring long-overdue changes to the activities of the paparazzi and those who buy their product.

I am hoping for one further change: in recent months we have heard much from our politicians about the need to curb the excessive use and speed of motor vehicles. Will Diana's death help their cause by now laying bare the often heard falsehood of, "I'm different, I'm a good driver, I can handle speed, I'm safe driving fast"? If so, many more lives will be saved by hers.

J MALLOWES
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Sir: Diana may have been indirectly the victim of paparazzi attention, but she was much more directly the victim of car culture, a mindset which in this case made someone think that it was perfectly acceptable to drive recklessly just to get away from unwanted attention.

Some voices in the anti-car-culture lobby are calling for mandatory speed regulators on all motor vehicles. It should give us all pause for thought that such a seemingly extreme measure might well have saved Diana's life along with many thousands more.

MICHAEL KNEE
Petersfield, Hampshire

Sir: Princess Diana's tragic death in an underpass in Paris was not just down to a few photographers on motorbikes.

She was betrayed in her marriage by Prince Charles and mismanaged by the Royal Family from the very start. But for the wreckage she was treated by the Royals she would never have been there in the first place. She would have been with her husband and children in her own home like any other wife and mother.

Is it permissible for you or me to say this?
MICHAEL KNOWLES
Cleaton, Cheshire

Sir: Don't blame us, says your photographer Brian Harris, we were only following orders ("Don't shoot the messenger; look to yourself", 1 September).

But did we, the public, really issue those orders? Images of the Princess were usually irresistibly attractive. It was hard not to want to look at them. But we did not commission them and most of us would not have wanted them at all at the price of her discomfort.

What was done was done out of greed and those that did it were not the messengers but the perpetrators. Do not now wring your hands and blame the public.
JULIAN CUPPAGE
London SW4

Sir: On the same page as various items discussing the paparazzi in pursuit of Princess Diana, you publish (1 September) a photograph of the two young princes and their father being driven to church on Sunday morning, taken by a lens that was peering through the windows of the car.



I find that photograph unacceptably intrusive. Please may these children be allowed to grieve for their dead mother in private, however public the occasion? At the funeral, may they be allowed to weep, if they weep, without being displayed across the screens and newspapers of the world?

This is the first memorial we might build to the People's Princess.
The Rev BERNARD O'CONNOR
OSA
Dundee

Sir: Whoever was responsible for ordering that Radios 4 and 3 were to be harnessed together following the death of Princess Diana really should be sacked. It shows how cheap, unwise and "tabloid" the BBC's judgement has become under John Birt.

Very sad as the news was, many people want to be able to reflect on tragedy in their own way with the solace of normal music programmes, especially with the fine repertoire of music frequently broadcast on R3.

Like the BBC's Gulf war news or Elvis Presley's death anniversary, this was bad-taste overkill, and in the end is counter-productive, making heroes and heroines out of the already over-hyped, thus diminishing their true merit.
DAVID BATEMAN
Oundle, Northamptonshire

Sir: From their childhood onwards, the individual members of the Royal Family seem relatively unhappy. Isn't this the best reason for not having a monarchy?
MARY QUARMBY
Harleston, Norfolk

Causes and cures for poverty

Sir: Not often does one read two articles in the same issue ("Let's just put an end to poverty" by Polly Toynbee and "Industrial decline is no horror story" by Diane Coyle, 28 August) where the themes are virtual cause and effect.

Deindustrialisation has caused loss of metal-bashing jobs which were the bread and butter of the unskilled and the semi-skilled. Now that these jobs have been lost to the service sector, which requires a higher degree of education and sophistication, there has been a knock-on effect on the social structure. There is increased reliance on welfare benefits. Since the incapacity benefit is far greater than job-seeker's allowance there is an increased demand to be off sick.

Once the sick role is confirmed there is increased demand to claim disability living allowances. Mental illness among the unemployed is much higher than in those gainfully employed. Their reliance on mood enhancing drugs, either prescribed or bought in the black market, is also increasing. To Polly Toynbee these are statistics, but to a working GP it is a day-to-day encounter with individuals.

Social dysfunction is not necessarily caused by lack of money. If it were, every genuinely poor society would be in complete chaos. By all means provide more

money to solve the problem, but provide it in such a way that the individual is proud to be a responsible member of society, even if relatively poor compared with those who are better trained and are in better-paid jobs.
Dr A M GORDHANDAS
Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire

Sir: Polly Toynbee's article (28 August) on ending poverty shares two misunderstandings which inform most recent contributions to the debate on "social exclusion": that poverty can be addressed without changing the structures of the mainstream economy, and that it can be resolved from the top down.

Toynbee argues for the speedy funding of already successful programmes. Fine. But programmes targeted solely on the poorest cannot end poverty. The increase in poverty in the last twenty years has been produced by the decentralisation and fragmentation of wage bargaining, the outlawing of most effective trade union action, the deliberate creation of high unemployment to lower wages and impose greater managerial discipline, increased freedom of movement of capital, deregulation of employment, and an overarching strategy of cost-cutting. These conditions, which New Labour is committed to retaining, cannot but reproduce greater inequality.

Nor will poverty be addressed primarily by pressure on the Government of liberal business

and middle-class opinion. "Ordinary people", including the poorest, have to fight against the effects of neoliberalism and devise measures to replace it. But this requires an end to the trade union and public order laws which are the other major inheritance from Thatcherism.
Dr JAMIE GOUGH
Division of Geography and Environmental Management
University of Northumbria
Newcastle upon Tyne

Living in a fortress

Sir: How many of your readers were angered by "ex-con" Chris Buckland's bland contribution to your magazine ("How to heat burglars", 30 August)?

He advises us to turn our homes into costly imitations of Fort Knox, ignoring the obvious fact that it is people like him who make it necessary for us to spend hundreds of pounds on complicated security arrangements that make our houses into our prisons.

Since I had the Crime Prevention Officer's advice and the locksmith's attentions, I can no longer fling my windows open on hot nights, my side-alley has to be gated (and with a special type of unclimbable gate), my garden re-fenced, every outer door has three or four bolts on it, I have an alarm that keeps going off, and now Mr Buckland tells me I need

grilles to keep him and his like out.

I wonder how many families he has made wretched by breaking into their homes and stealing their things, to gain the know-how to earn money from you telling us about his mean, rotten, ruthless and criminal tricks?
LYNNE REID BANKS
London W13

BT's strange list of my 'friends'

Sir: In 1995 I accepted BT's "Friends and Family" discount on call charges to five customer-selected numbers.

When last March discount and numbers were doubled I chose nine. BT confirmed but added a hotel number, which I cancelled.

In June they recommended a new list which excluded two of my choice and added a building society, and two very rare contacts. On complaining, I was told to ignore the form.

Now another recommended list excludes three of my choice and adds a software company, an electrical manufacturer, the removed building society and a called-back wrong number. To make the BT-projected savings I would need to keep chatting to this lot.

My July account even included under F&F my own number with a nil charge. What is the purpose of this irritating nonsense and the associated hum, which has to be read in case it hides something of importance?
GRAHAM HOLDEN
Budleigh Salterton, Devon

Cook fails to act over East Timor

Sir: Robin Cook's proposals on Indonesia (reports, 30 August) are derisory. By tolerating contracts agreed under the Tories, the Labour government shows its determination to continue arming a universally acknowledged aggressor.

A further dereliction of British responsibility is the failure to urge robust action through the UN Security Council. Britain has always supported SC sanctions Resolutions 661 and 687 in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. It has always supported sanctions Resolutions 748 and 883 to punish Libya for failing to hand over the two Lockerbie suspects, even though Libya has no extradition treaty with Britain or the United States.

In 1975/76 Britain supported SC Resolutions 384 and 389 condemning the Indonesian invasion of East Timor and demanding withdrawal. A sanctions resolution should have followed Indonesian non-compliance.

In his memoirs, *A Dangerous Place*, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, former US ambassador to the United Nations, celebrates his role in blocking any effective UN action on East Timor: "The Department of State desired that the United Nations prove utterly ineffective in whatever measures it undertook. This task was given to me, and I carried it forward with no inconsiderable success."

If Labour's "ethical" foreign policy means anything it is time to reverse Britain's 22-year acquiescence in US support for Indonesian tyranny and aggression. A comprehensive and mandatory Security Council resolution for an international arms embargo on Indonesia is long overdue.
GEOFF SIMONS
Stockport, Cheshire

We're no class traitors

Sir: As usual, I enjoyed Adam Mars-Jones' film review (28 August). However, he let himself and *The Independent* down with his comment on *The Full Monty* that "The people in the film would be much more likely to see success as a form of class betrayal or defeat than as a badge of solidarity".

This is not only patronising but wrong. Coming from the working class, as do many of my now professional friends, I can state that success is commonly striven for, and achieved, with pride. Such comments do *The Independent* no favours if it wishes to continue to broaden its readership beyond the middle and upper classes.
STEVE FULLER
Carshalton, Surrey

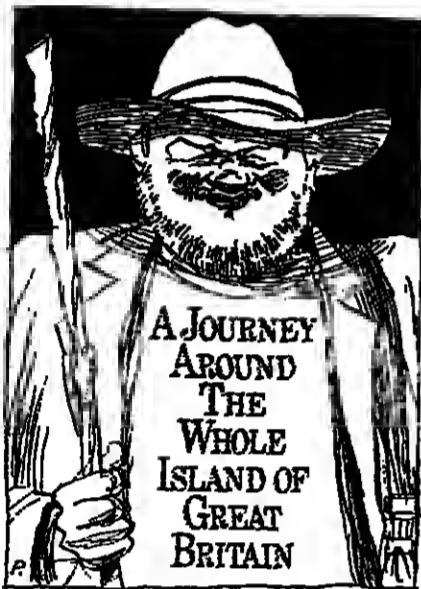
Greek anatomy

Sir: It is to be hoped that your medical correspondent's anatomy ("Doctors decide that thumb is finger", 29 August) is more accurate than his history in attributing the stability of Latin terminology to "Galen, the fourth-century Roman dissector". Galen (AD129-216) wrote in Greek.

In his *Medical Terminology* he praised clarity and intelligibility above total consistency, and had at least one predecessor, Rufus of Ephesus, around AD100, whose *Names of Parts of the Body* is still extant in Greek.
VIVIAN NUTTTON
The Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine
London NW1

essay

Defining the new Jerusalem



Tony Blair advocates the notion of community, but does such a thing continue to exist in this country? For Paul Vallely, a whistle-stop tour of Britain highlighted a hundred small ways in which the communal spirit still thrives

It was Tony Blair who started me off. It was all that banging on about community. For the past decade it has been a key component in his political vocabulary, but did the word, I wondered, have any real meaning? I decided to find out by touring Britain for a month to hunt it down.

The British, of course, cloak such abstractions with mild eccentricity. From the outset it was pure *This England*. Virtually the first notice I saw when I alighted from the train out of London said: "Pram Race: Rule No 1. One member of the team must remain in the pram at all times." The beautifully batty was with me all the way up the West coast and down the East. But had the bonds of community been irreversibly weakened by the changes of recent decades? Would I be able to find it anywhere?

"The importance of the notion of community," Mr Blair

had said, "is that it defines the relationship not only between us as individuals but between people and the society in which they live, one that is based on responsibilities as well as rights."

The Prime Minister has taken care never to define his new Jerusalem. The representative of the old one, the Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks, has had a stab. Community, he reckons, is "any voluntary organisation of people larger than the individual and smaller than the state." That would include churches, trade unions, charities, pressure groups, Rotary clubs, residents' associations, parent-teacher committees, and tennis clubs—all the countless little platoons which Edmund Burke spoke about as making up British society. It is what the political philosophers call civil society.

Yet that is too broad. Community is about people. It is characterised by face-to-face

contact. In a community, everyone is known as an individual. I worked that out only after I arrived at my first destination, Cornwall, where I sought out those activists who want home rule for the Cornish duchy.

My intention was to examine whether community could be found in nationhood. But it was swiftly evident that the nation was too big a concept to generate the qualities we look for in community, even when it was as small as a nation as the Cornish—which was why its nationalists so often had recourse to history and heritage to staunch their self-definition.

In any case, was I making the mistake of seeing community as synonymous with place? There were, I discovered, places where that still was true. Stanley Ellis of the Yorkshire Dialect Society told me of how accent could still vary significantly between villages only three or four fields apart. "Language constitutes your bound-

aries. It gives you a sense of belonging. It is the classic way that local people detect folk from elsewhere. You feel more comfortable among your own." And the vast majority of the general populace still live not far from where they were born.

In Kootinging, a small industrial town in West Yorkshire, that was still the case and the extended family remained a potent force. Indeed, the sense of community had been enhanced by the miners' strike, the legacy of which was still felt in the community centre run by an offshoot of the miners' wives' group. But it felt like the remnant of a passing era. As in so many other places, the sense of community is restricted to the over 40s. Youth unemployment was ravaging the area, producing either migration or a sense of alienation and dislocation which breeds the opposite of community values.

I had been primed for this. "The Thatcherite vision which so dominated the 1980s had power because it spoke lucidly to one source of human motivation: economic self-advancement," the Chief Rabbi had written. "The political domain becomes a place where there are winners and losers, and where there is nothing to give the losers hope."

The problem goes well beyond Thatcherism. The Enlightenment may have freed energies to create capitalism and the democratic state, but it also set in motion processes which eroded the traditions, rituals and beliefs which nurtured a sense of commonality. Indi-

vidualism became the new philosophical creed. Fraternity was dropped and liberty and equality were left alone to battle it out. There was no community to mediate in the polarity between the individual and the state.

Perhaps, even as Don Cupitt insists that the new religion will not be found in parishes but in the global media, so new community will be found elsewhere. Clearly Mr Blair thinks so. "The notion of community, for me, is less a geographical concept than a belief in the social nature of human beings," he said more recently.

So could it be found in the workplace? There was certainly something of that in the Japanese electronics factory I visited in Wales. True, the spur of unemployment which Thatcherism sharpened continues to have its effect in taming the workforce, but in that was at Diaplastics Ltd a spirit of consensus and common purpose. It grew in part from the Japanese emphasis on relationships. There was a genuine sense that workers and managers were all "members" of the company, eating in the same canteen, wearing the same uniform and all joining the production line if there was a crisis.

But there was solidarity, too, inside the beleaguered British Aerospace factory near Preston which is the scene of regular protests by those who object to the sale of its Hawk aircraft to the regime in Indonesia. There was, said

Frank Coulton, the senior shop steward, a tremendous sense of community now. "I've never known relations between management and union to be as good as they are now," he said. "It's brought us closer together, being under siege."

Something similar was true among the middle class in Belfast. The phrase "business community" is often a mere form of words. In Northern Ireland there was a sense of real cohesion among the entrepreneurial class. Ironically, it was in part a product of the province's violent past. Peace seems likely to open up the economy, allowing outside firms to compete with small local businesses. Money which once circulated in the province will now be sucked out to head offices in London. The impact on the local community could be far-reaching.

Protesters at the factory gates, or civil disorder in an entire province, cannot be the acceptable price of community, of course. But, as at Diaplastics, other mechanisms are in use throughout the country.

The rural community in Cumbria knew it was cementing social bonds at the Cocker-mouth Agricultural Show. Committee meetings to organise it were one of the few things which brought isolated farmers together through the year. Amid its competitions to preserve local traditions like cake-making and needlework, it made particular efforts to bring children into the process, to encourage values of non-pas-

sivity and participation. Such conscious efforts to inculcate a communal sense among individuals were apparent in many of the places I visited. They were at their most artificial among the game-playing of the three temporary communities – of actors, student musicians and language pupils – I encountered during the university vacation at Giron College. But they were at perhaps their most effective in Edinburgh, among the impressive attempts by the Bethany Christian Trust to build a sense of community among the isolated individuals who make up the city's homeless.

It was not simply that the trust had cleverly structured its levels of help – soup kitchen, temporary hostel, supported flats and job training – to build an increasing sense of involvement. It had also made community values a key element in its drink and drug rehabilitation unit. "It's good," said one reforming addict. "You've got someone to talk to when you feel like a drink. And you have another resident as an escort when you go out. You begin to think about the impact on the others if you go back drunk. It breeds responsibility and outward thinking, not just looking after No 1."

It was encounters like that which give the lie to the notion that society is, as Hobbes put it, a mere association set up to maintain order. Reciprocity, trust and solidarity are what separates communities from associations, and these are qualities which cannot be expe-

rienced by the individual alone.

There is more to all this than bleeding-heart stuff. It is the trust which community fosters that is the foundation of prosperity in the modern economic order, according to the high priest of Capitalism Triumphant, Francis Fukuyama. Without a general sense of trust, enterprises find it hard to grow beyond the familial, says the End-of-History man in his latest book. Trust. Those with a poor civil society, like Italy or China, do worse than those like Germany and Japan where a sense of community thrived under relatively decentralised political authority.

The members of the Bournemouth Gilbert & Sullivan Society may not have realised it when I encountered them at the Buxton G&S Festival, but they are a paradigm of that civil society. It is in such associations, says the Chief Rabbi, "that we acquire the virtues that sustain our common life: duty, honesty, service, self-sacrifice, integrity, neighbourliness, fortitude and civility. Without these, the workings of the market are too impersonal and arbitrary to sustain a sense of shared belonging."

G&S is, of course, a passion, and there is a clue in that. There is something spiritual and emotional among a people bonded by a strong commitment to shared values. For community truly to work, said Reinhold Niebuhr in his seminal book *Moral Man and Immoral Society*, calculations of entitlement must be softened by a generous self-giving, "above and beyond the call of duty."

Some, like Jonathan Sacks, feel that religion is essential for that. The father of the Hindu family at whose festivities I was a guest in Wellingborough clearly thought so too, though for him religion was not an inner spiritual quest so much as a set of traditions which sustain family and community. Yet the G&S showed that it could be encompassed by something much broader than religion.

Tony Blair, I suspect, agrees. "It's easy to deny the idea of community, and some may feel unhappy with it," he said when he first used the word in his maiden speech in 1983. "But call it community values, family values or even spiritual values, what they have in common is something bigger than 'me'."

The task now is to discover what they are, and what are the techniques which a society needs to nurture them.

The evidence of my brief tour of Britain is that the plant of community has not withered, but it does need conscious tending. "Social capital is like a ratchet that is more easily turned in one direction than another," warned Fukuyama. "It can be dissipated by the actions of governments much more readily than those governments can build it up again." That is the challenge, Mr Blair.

GIVENCHY



Of nights, naves and nickerbockers

I am very glad to welcome back the greatest living authority on modern English usage, Professor Wordsmith, who has agreed yet again to drag himself out of the saloon bar and tackle your queries about this wonderful language of ours and the way it works, or very often, of course, the way it doesn't work properly at all.

All yours, Prof!

I am often puzzled by the presence of words in English beginning with *kn-* or *gn-*, especially as the *k-* and *g-* are not pronounced. The English language doesn't like having several consonants in a row. I mean, you don't get words in English full of consonants like those African names like *Mphwanga*....

Professor Wordsmith writes: Yes, you do, oorth of the border. McStay has four consonants in a row, for a start. When the first name ends in consonants as well, you get more piling up. In the name "Ralph McFall", you've got five consonants in a row. L-F-M-C-F....

Nevertheless, why DO we still have words beginning with *kn-* and *gn-* when the *k-* and *g-* are never pronounced? I am thinking of words like

knuckle and *gnome*. What's the point?

Professor Wordsmith writes: There is no point. Spelling is not meant to have a point.

But isn't spelling meant to provide a guide to the way things are pronounced?

Professor Wordsmith writes: Certainly not. Spelling is a guide to the way words USED to be pronounced. All these words beginning with *kn-* like *knave* and *knave* come from similar Germanic words and the *k-* used to be pronounced. Indeed, the Germans do still pronounce the *k-* on the equivalent words like "Knabe" and "Knecht".

Still, at least it's a useful way of distinguishing between words beginning with *k-* or *g-* and the same word without a *k-* or *g-*, isn't it?

Professor Wordsmith writes: Well, it would be if there were but there aren't. There is no word "ouckle" or "narked" or "nickerbocker" or even "ouck-nack".

What about "knight" and "night"?

Professor Wordsmith writes: OK, wise guy. I grant you that one exception. But when will you ever be likely

to confuse "knight" and "night"? I challenge you to come up with a sentence in which the two might be confused!

All right, how about this....

"I was placed next to Sir Edward Heath at dinner and again at coffee afterwards. It was undoubtedly the most boring night of my life...."

Professor Wordsmith writes: Hmm. Well, the grammar is dodgy, but I'll give you a point there. Incidentally, it is not quite true to say that *kn-* and *gn-* are never pronounced. I can think of one current word beginning with *kn-* in which

the *k-* is always sounded. I bet you can't.

Professor Wordsmith writes: Knesset.

Hmm... yes, your point, I think. Well, I can think of a word beginning with *gn-* in which the *g-* is sounded.

Professor Wordsmith writes: I bet you can't. Gnocchi.

Professor Wordsmith writes: Ah, no you're wrong there! The *g-* is not actually sounded. It is just a symbol of nasalisation, so that we know to pronounce it "oyokki" and not "nokki". Look, can't we get away from these damned *kn-*s and *gn-*s?

Certainly. Here's a knotty question for you (and I don't mean "naughty"). I saw a sign the other day on a private estate saying, "No Hunting" and "No Shooting" and all that nonsense, and then underneath it said "No Trespassing Without Permission". Now, this doesn't make sense to me. How can you trespass WITH permission? I mean, trespassing is entering a place without permission, so how can you do it WITH permission? The action of entry is exactly the same, but because permission is granted,

it ceases to be trespassing. Therefore I would argue that it is impossible to trespass with permission, and that if a trespasser is given the nod to continue his entry, his action automatically becomes something else. But what? What IS the word for trespassing after permission has been given?

Professor Wordsmith writes: Hmm. Interesting one. Difficult, that.

Hmm... Tell you what, let's have some more questions about words beginning with *kn-* and *gn-*!

I think I have thought of a word beginning with *gn-* when the *g-* actually is sounded. Isn't the initial *g-* pronounced on the word "gnosis", meaning the rock of the same name?

Professor Wordsmith writes: No. It is pronounced "neiss". That is why you sometimes hear the following conversation between geologists in the field: "Hey, look at this weird rock here!" "It's gnosis." "Yes, isn't it?"

Have you actually ever heard that exchange?

Professor Wordsmith writes: Goo.

Professor Wordsmith will be back again soon. Keep these queries rolling in!



Miles Kington

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obituaries / gazette

Dodi Fayed

Dodi Fayed's background was one of unbridled luxury. The eldest son of Mohamed Al Fayed, the multi-millionaire owner of Harrods, and the only child by his first wife, the late Samira Khashoggi, he was born in the Egyptian port of Alexandria in 1966 and raised as a Muslim in a world of lavish homes, yachts and private planes. Samira's father had been the private physician to the Saudi Royal Family, and her brother was the billionaire arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi, who gave the ambitious Mohamed financial support with his business schemes.

Dodi's parents separated shortly after his birth, but both families were devoted to him, and his school holidays were divided between the Khashoggi homes on the French Riviera, Paris and Cairo, and his father's palatial home in Alexandria. At the age of 15 he was given his own flat in Mayfair and his own Rolls Royce complete with chauffeur and bodyguard.

He was educated at the exclusive Le Rosay school in Switzerland before attending the British military academy Sandhurst and getting a commission in the United Arab Emirates air force (his father had business concerns in Dubai at the time). As a junior officer stationed in London, the handsome young man became a familiar figure on the capital's nightclub scene, with a predilection for fast cars and beautiful women. He owned five Ferraris, and his girlfriends included Bronke Shields, Cathy Lee Croft, and Joanne Whalley. ("He likes trophy women," said a friend at the time. "Anyone that rich is going to.")

Just as the death of Diana, Princess of Wales sadly echoes that of another princess, the former Grace Kelly, so Dodi Fayed's life and death strangely parallels that of the European playboy-prince of the Fifties. Aly Khan, who had an equal love of high-life and glamorous women, Khan married Rita Hayworth, and had affairs with such stars as Gene Tierney, Joan Fontaine and Yvonne DeCarlo before his 1960 death in a car crash, ironically also in Paris. Fayed, who is described by friends as a quiet and introverted man despite his love of celebrity ("He would invite all these famous people to dinner, then just sit and listen," said a close friend) quickly abandoned a military career in favour of the splashier world of show business, forming a film production company Allied Stars.

The first film for which he helped raise financing (and for which he gained co-producer credit) was *Chariots of Fire* (1981), which won four Oscars (including Best Film) for its moving depiction of a true story of two men, one a devout Scottish Christian, the other an

English Jew, who ran in the 1924 Olympics. In America, where Fayed set up his business, he leased a series of luxury homes in Southern California and gave legendary parties for such guests as Tony Curtis, Farrah Fawcett and Robert Downey Jr. ("At one party," said a friend, "There was a full bowling alley, a dance band and movies").

But Fayed gained a reputation for not meeting financial obligations, with at least 10 law-suits for bounced cheques and unpaid rent. It was alleged that whenever his father was displeased with Dodi he would stop his reputed \$100,000-a-month allowance. The director Richard Donner, who was planning to do a film with Fayed, defended him in a statement to *Time* magazine this month. "He's a good-looking, bright young kid who comes from a lot of money and people are jealous of him. If this thing is serious, it could not be a luckier lady because he's a special guy."

In 1986 Fayed married the model Suzanne Gregard, but the union lasted only eight months. Later Gregard, who won a divorce settlement of over £2m, spoke of him warmly: "He was so romantic and thoughtful, and didn't take things too seriously". The writer Dominick Dunne is another attesting to Fayed's charm, stating after hearing of his death in a car crash with Diana, Princess of Wales: "What-

ever else he was, he was a nice guy. There was something very gentle about him."

Members of Fayed's family attribute the tenderness and sensitivity he displayed in his relationships with women to his own devotion to his mother and the tragedies he had experienced. As a teenager he lost his adored maternal grandmother, who died of blood poisoning after a botched facial operation. A stepfather and aunt died in a car crash, and his mother, to whom he was devoted - he would telephone her virtually every day - died of a heart attack 11 years ago at the age of 51. Fayed told a friend: "If I meant giving up everything I have I would do it to bring my mother back."

Though he spent three months of every year working with his father supervising product development and branding for Harrods, Fayed's main activities centred on his film business and his jet-setting lifestyle, his description in gossip columns invariably that of "millionaire playboy".

His later film ventures were less distinguished than his first, though Robert Mandel's *FX* (1986) was an intriguing, if far-fetched tale of a film special-effects expert who is hired to stage a fake assassination and finds himself part of a sinister real-life crime. George Roy Hill's *The World According to*

Garp (1982), an ambitious attempt to film John Irving's complex novel about a strange young man's odyssey through a life heavily influenced by an unorthodox mother, won some critical praise, but Stephen Spielberg's *Hook* (1991) was a disastrously overblown and charmless version of *Peter Pan*. One of its stars, Julia Roberts, had a brief relationship with Fayed. Tina Sinatra and the former child model Tracey Lynn were other girlfriends. "He was always with a very pretty woman," said a friend.

In 1986 he first met Princess Diana when the Fayed team played that of Prince Charles at Windsor, but it was 11 years later, when his father asked Diana and her children to be his holiday guests in St Tropez, that the pair got to know one another. Their affair made the name of Dodi Fayed familiar throughout the world. His close friend, the writer Jack Martin, commented on Sunday: "Dodi had all the money in the world, but he wanted fame. He died with the most famous woman in the world. He couldn't have scripted it better."

Tom Vallance

Emad (Dodi) Al Fayed, film producer and business executive: born Alexandria, Egypt 15 April 1955; married 1986 Suzanne Gregard (marriage dissolved); died Paris 31 August 1997.



Fayed: "Whatever else he was, he was a nice guy. There was something very gentle about him"

Carl Jacobi

Carl Jacobi was a journalist, weird-fiction and adventure-story writer, and one of the last surviving pulp-fictioners to have contributed regularly to the legendary American horror magazine *Weird Tales* during its "glory days" (the 1920s and 1930s).

His horror stories in particular were highly regarded, both by readers and fellow professionals. E. Hoffman Price, English-born Hugh Cave, Mary Elizabeth Counselman, Robert "Psycho" Bloch, the poet Joseph Payne Brennan - *Weird Tales* regulars all, at one time or another - were confirmed Jacobi admirers. Robert E. Howard, creator of "Conan The Barbarian", thought his imagination "subtle and poetic". The fastidious H.P. Lovecraft (sternest of stern critics) considered his talent "phenomenal".

Carl Richard Jacobi was born in Minneapolis (a city he never much left) in 1908. He was a voracious reader, gulping down at an early age quantities of Jules Verne, Wells and Poe, as well as the Frank Merriwell and Tom Swift boys' adventure yarns. He was always a writer. At his junior high school he earned good pocket-money concocting his own "dime novels" (short story booklets), and selling them to fellow students at 10 cents-a-piece. Even in his eighties, when chronic ill-health plagued him, he would sit at his typewriter playing with an idea to see if it could be turned into paying fiction.

He attended the University of Minnesota from 1927 to 1930, majoring in English Literature, although long before graduation he made his first professional sale, a short detective tale, "Rumbling Cannon", to *Secret Service Stories*. This ought to have paid around

50 dollars, but Jacobi received not a cent, since the pulp folded soon after the story was published, a catastrophe which ought to have warned him of the folly of pursuing a writing career.

However, his enthusiasm was unquenched, although initially he had to support himself immediately after graduation by joining the *Minneapolis Star* as reporter, reviewer and sub. After a while regular hours palled, and he left the *Star*, renting an office in uptown Minneapolis in which were typewriter, paper, a few reference books, and a list of editorial addresses in New York.

In these Depression years of the early 1930s the pulp writer needed as formidable a creative armory as possible, along with a certain amount of luck, and cunning, to crack even the toughest paying markets. Jacobi had a useful knack for dreaming up memorable milieus against which to set his tales, and bizarre situations that stayed in the mind long after the magazine the story itself was in had been finished and tossed away.

He may have been the only writer ever to have a story firmly rejected by the redoubtable *Weird Tales* editor Farnsworth Wright, only to have Wright, weeks later, begging for the story back, because an incident in it had stuck in his mind. This was "Revelations in Black", a chilling, and much-reprinted, vampire tale set in an old stucco farmhouse outside of Minneapolis Jacobi had driven past one night (the house's eerie statue-lined garden, as seen by brilliant moonlight, had caught his eye, and his imagination).

He also clawed his way into the better-paying adventure market (quite unlike weird-fantasy or horror) by finding a gap in the field (no one was writing stories

set in the East Indies or the Malay Straits much), then cleverly using the kinds of people he wanted to feature in his stories as unpaid field-researchers. He would write to those in charge of far-flung outposts deep in the heart of the Borneo jungle, say, demanding geographical detail, obscure ethnic lore, atmospheric and forestal conditions; anything, in short, you couldn't get out of a book. This way he became an acknowledged expert in a field he had created himself, at the same time virtually inventing whole new fiction sub-genres, such as "Borneo terror tale", "New Guinea Adventure", and so on. Later he turned the same trick with

Over a 40-year career Jacobi wrote of vampires, giant cobras, gun-runners, South Sea poachers, alien invaders, murderous sleepwalkers, werewolves, cosmic castaways, swashbucklers of the Spanish Main (impudently he wrote to the celebrated historic novelist and creator of the arch-swashbuckler Captain Blood, Rafael Sabatini, for hucaneering detail, thus initiating a sparky correspondence that lasted until Sabatini's death in 1950), *doppelgängers*, dimensional doorways, ghouls, diabolical strangers, blooded clutching smoking 38s, possessed pianos, and a thousand and one other strange, disturbing and utterly riveting matters.

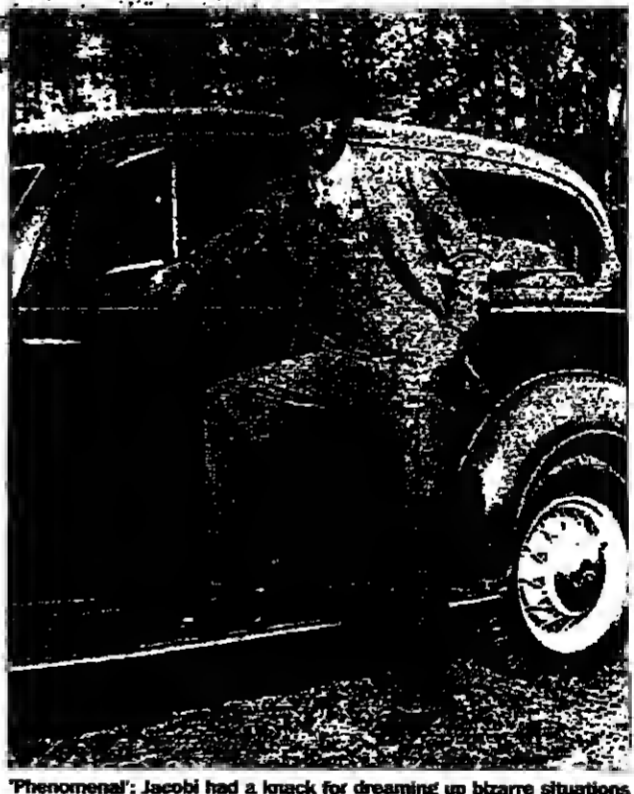
Some of his tales are classics of weird fiction - the brooding "Moss Island", "Hamdrayd Chair" (extremely uncomfortable), "The Cane", "Portrait in Moonlight", "The Unpleasantness at Carver House", "The Digging at Pistol Key" (pirate loot and obeah worship), "The Tomb From Beyond" (admirer by Lovecraft), "The Bells Toll Blood" (*Terror Tales* editor Rogers Terrill, no faint-heart when it came to stories of gruesome horror, rejected it as "too gory"), "The Cornie Door" (which leads to a strange Gothic world), but his adventure yarns are equally as entertaining, and certainly not to be dismissed merely because their creator never strayed much beyond a hundred miles or so from his hearthside.

Carl Jacobi did not have the easiest of lives. When the pulp markets collapsed he took regular employment with Honeywell as an electronics inspector, while still pounding the typewriter off duty. Debilitating illness crippled him during the final half-decade or so of his life, although his literary agent and biographer Dixon Smith did much to alleviate his various afflictions.

Most of Carl Jacobi's supernatural fiction was collected in four volumes: *Revelations in Black* (1947), *Portraits in Moonlight* (1964), *Disclosures in Scarlet* (1972), and the recent *Sneak of the Snake* (1994). A sampling of his exotic adventure stories was collected in *East Of Samarinda* (1989). A rather more generous helping would be very welcome.

Jack Adrian

Carl Richard Jacobi, journalist, short story writer, and electronics inspector: born Minneapolis, Minnesota 10 July 1908; died St Louis Park Plaza, Minnesota 25 August 1997.



Phenomenal: Jacobi had a knack for dreaming up bizarre situations

Norris Bradbury

Norris Bradbury followed J. Robert Oppenheimer in 1956 as director of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in New Mexico and held that position longer than any other director, until 1970.

More than any other single individual, Bradbury was responsible for the success of Los Alamos in developing mass-produced nuclear weapons to replace the crudely engineered and highly inefficient devices used to end the Second World War. As head of the "gadget engineers" who conducted the world's first nuclear test at Trinity Site in the Jornada del Muerto area, north of Alamogordo, New Mexico, Bradbury was keenly aware of the shortcomings of those devices.

In a laboratory denuded of its most prominent talents at the end of the war, he led the team that developed the atomic weapons that were the mainstay of the nuclear arsenal for the next two decades, and, despite the recalcitrance and, eventually, the resignation of the physicist Edward Teller, he succeeded in developing the world's first thermonuclear device by 1952 in response to the arms race launched by the Soviet Union in September 1949.

Bradbury's accomplishments went far beyond successful nuclear weapons, however. He insisted upon the laboratory's freedom to participate in fundamental scientific research in nuclear physics, chemistry and materials science, biology and

medicine, and other fields only remotely related to nuclear weapons.

Many engineers and scientists were thus attracted to the remote laboratory, which was completely rebuilt under Bradbury's direction after the war. Among other scientific tools added at that time were the world's largest Van de Graaff electrostatic generator, a series of advanced research reactors, the Maniac computer, and the Los Alamos Meson Physics Facility, which is still a centre of basic science research at the Laboratory. Many important scientific accomplishments resulted. Frederick Reines and Clyde Cowan first detected the neutrino with detectors built at Los Alamos, an accomplishment that was recognised by a

Nobel Prize in Physics to Reines in 1966.

Bradbury was born in Santa Barbara, California in 1909. After receiving his first degree at Pomona College, Claremont, in 1929, where he studied under Roland Tipler, he studied geology in military under Leonard Loeh at the University of California, Berkeley, where he received his PhD in physics and mathematics in 1933. After two years at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) on National Research Fellowship, he was appointed to the Stanford University physics faculty, where he rose to become full professor in 1942.

At the onset of the Second World War, Bradbury accepted active service in the Navy, and

travelled to the Naval Proving Ground at Dahlgren, Virginia, where he worked on projectile ballistics. In 1943, he joined Los Alamos to assemble the implosion device.

At Los Alamos, Bradbury rose rapidly through the ranks and, after overseeing the gadget's test at Trinity and its deployment, he was chosen to head the laboratory after the departure of J. Robert Oppenheimer in the autumn of 1956.

With Oppenheimer went most of the people who had been responsible for the design, development, and test of the implosion device. Under Bradbury's leadership, the outflow of manpower was ended, and, with the failure of Allied proposals for international control of nuclear weapons, the laboratory

became a new career of providing a nuclear arsenal for the Cold War. In addition to perfecting fission weapons, Bradbury also led the effort that resulted in the world's first thermonuclear device in 1952. Edward Teller, who had worked on the plans for such a device at Los Alamos as early as 1944, had resigned from the laboratory in the preceding year because of his political differences with Bradbury, and founded a rival weapons laboratory at Livermore.

Bradbury was an advocate of the Limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963, and, as early as 1955, argued that the nuclear arms race must be halted. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in the United States in 1952 and was deco-

rated with the Legion of Merit of the United States Navy in 1945.

Bradbury was respected and loved by the scientists and engineers at the laboratory, and was honoured by the naming of the Bradbury Science Museum after him in 1984. He told me he felt that it was inappropriate to memorialise the living in this fashion, but no more appropriate monument to his legacy could have been imagined.

Robert W. Seidel

Norris Edwin Bradbury, physicist: born Santa Barbara, California 30 May 1909; Director, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory 1956-70; married 1933 Lois Platt (three sons); died Los Alamos, New Mexico 20 August 1997.



Bradbury: nuclear weapons

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS
MARTIN Keith, after a short illness, on 31 August 1997, aged 74. Late of Norwich. Dearest loved father of Jeremy and William. Funeral service to be held at St Paul's Cathedral, Norwich, on Tuesday 9 September at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund may be sent to Peter Taylor Funeral Services, 85 Unthank Road, Norwich NR2 2PE.

Birthdays

Sir Leonard Appleby, ambassador to China, 59; Lady Averbury, mental health planner, 63; Professor David Blake, composer and professor of music, York University, 61; Baroness Brigstocke, former high mistress, St Paul's Girls' School, 68; Dame Frances Campbell-Preston, Lady of the Bedchamber to the Queen Mother, 79; Professor Dame Barbara Clayton, pathologist, 75; Mr Jimmy Connors, tennis player, 45; Mr Russ Conway, pianist and entertainer, 72; Professor David Daiches, former professor of English, 85; Mr Andrew Dismore MP, 43; Sir Oliver Forster, former diplomat, 72; Mr David Forwards, actor, 60; Sir Edward Goschen, 81, former deputy chair-

man, Stock Exchange, 84; Mr Michael Hastings, playwright, 59; Mr Leslie Hill, chairman ITV Association, 61; Air Marshal Sir Paul Holdcroft, 86; Mr Alan Hurst MP, 52; Mr Percy "Laddie" Lucas, former MP, fighter pilot and golfer, 82; Mr Francis Matthews, actor, 66; Sir Patrick Moberly, former ambassador to South Africa, 69; Miss Patsy Rodenburg, head of Voice at the Royal National Theatre and at the Guildhall School of Speech and Drama, 44; Sir Patrick Sheehy, former chairman, BAT Industries, 67; Mr Victor Spinetti, actor and director, 64; Mr Ronnie Stevens, actor and director, 67; General Sir John Walters, former Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, 62; The Right

Rev David Young, Bishop of Ripon, 66.

Anniversaries

Births: John Howard, prison reformer, 1726; Peter Nikolaus Petersen, pianist and composer, 1761; Karl Friedrich August Hering, violinist and composer, 1819; Giovanni Verga, novelist and playwright, 1840; Friedrich Wilhelm Oswald, chemist, 1853; Frederick Soddy, chemist and physicist, 1877; Sir Robert Bruce Lockhart, diplomat and author, 1887; Joseph Roth, author, 1894; Lord George-Brown, statesman, 1914; Deshaile Baldes Zaccaro (Zaccaro), painter, 1566; Karel van Mander, painter and poet, 1606;

Giuseppe de Ribera ("Lo Spagnoletto"), painter, 1622; Lady Alice Lisle, widow of John Lisle, beheaded, 1685; General Jean-Victor Marie Moreau, soldier, 1813; Thomas Tallord, civil engineer, 1834; Isaac Borealis, art historian, 1948; William Nicol, physicist, 1851; Johann Franz Encke, astronomer, 1865; Sir William Rowan Hamilton, astronomer, 1805; Henri Rousseau, painter, 1831; Ruggiero Eugenio de Rudolph, singer and composer, 1934; Baron Pierre de Coubertin, advocate of the modern Olympic Games, 1837; Tancred Bonnard, art historian, 1948; Sir William Alexander Craigie, lexicographer, 1957; John Ronald Reuel Tolkien, South African-born philol-

ogist and novelist, 1873; Sir Felix Aylmer (Felix Edward Aylmer-Jones), actor, 1979. On this day: Augustus Octavian defeated Antony at the Battle of Actium, 31 BC; the Great Fire of London began, 1666; the bombardment by the British of Copenhagen began, 1807; the Battle of Omdurman was won against the Mahdists by an army led by Lord Kitchener, 1898; men between the ages of 19 and 41 were conscripted in Britain under the National Service Bill, 1939; Japan surrendered to the Allies, aboard the USS *Missouri*, 1945; the first television station in China was opened in Peking, 1958. Today is the Feast Day of St Agapitus, St Antoninus of Paphos, St Broccard, St Casar of Apt, St William

of Roskilde and The Martyrs of September 1792.

Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers Company

The Election Court Meeting of the Worshipful Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers, followed by Dinner, was held yesterday at Tallow Chandlers' Hall, London EC4. The following officers were elected:

Master: Mr Robert Cross; Senior Warden: Admiral Sir Derek Boffell; Junior Warden: Mr Philip Ashfield; Junior Warden: The Hon Ray Constantine; Clerk: Gp Capt Gerry

Lectures

National Gallery: Kathleen Adler, "Back to School (1): The National Gallery Education Department", 1pm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal, Member, International Olympic Committee, will be the 19th Son of the International Olympic Committee, Lausanne, Switzerland. Changing of the Guard: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; Jackson's Company Grenadier Guards mount the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.15am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

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business & city

FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

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BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Yamaichi to sack London staff after losses

Tom Stevenson
Financial Editor

Yamaichi, the smallest of the so-called "big four" Japanese brokerage houses, said yesterday it had suspended 50 staff on full pay after "significant losses" in its London operation. The job cuts that are likely to result from the move represent the loss of almost one in seven of the broker's securities staff in London, an embarrassing reversal of its global ambitions.

The retreat in London follows similar withdrawals from other European markets, in-

cluding Madrid and Berlin. It also comes after a humiliating mass resignation by the broker's top brass in Tokyo following pay-offs to racketeers.

Yamaichi is suspected of paying 79 million yen (£410,000) to Ryoichi Kojima, the corporate racketeer at the heart of a financial scandal which has also ensnared Nomura Securities and Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank. More than a dozen people have been arrested in the affair, which involved bribing racketeers to prevent them disrupting annual meetings.

Yamaichi's problems in London stem from a costly bid by the broker to follow its Japanese rivals in a programme of "globalisation", a planned diversification out of their huge but stagnant domestic market.

Yamaichi is much smaller than its rivals, Nomura, Nikko and Daiwa, which are understood to have been much more seriously involved in international expansion plans. While this year's losses may have proved the final straw, the performance of the London operation is thought to have been a problem for many years.

"It is a process of the accumulation of losses over a long period of time," a spokesman said. He added that job cuts were likely to be across the board. Yamaichi refused to give details on those involved, but confirmed the cuts were likely to go beyond junior staff and would involve some of the 40 Japanese staff in London. The broker employs 340 staff in its securities operation.

"No specific areas are being targeted by the broker and it said it intended to remain involved in the origination, trading and sales of both equities and bonds. An escalation of costs together with poor trading meant a reduction in the London office was inevitable, the broker said.

The suspensions, described yesterday by one rival as a way for Yamaichi to save some face, will allow one month of consultation to determine the exact number of redundancies which are likely to take place at the end of September.

Strong pound slows growth to 'year-low'

Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

Concern that the strong pound was damaging industry deepened yesterday, following a new survey showing that falling export orders had slowed manufacturing growth to its lowest for more than a year.

At the same time, separate figures showed that consumers took out far less than expected in new loans in July, following a bumper increase in credit the previous month. In addition, the Halifax announced it had downgraded its forecast for house prices following the mortgage rate rises of recent months.

With buoyant consumer demand at home the only thing keeping industry expanding, the gloomier commentators yesterday foresaw a recession in manufacturing on the horizon.

Latest evidence on the state of the economy left the experts divided over the outlook for interest rates. "There is every chance that rates will be left on hold for the rest of the year," said Simon Briscoe at Nikko Europe, saying a "wait-and-see" policy was now appropriate.

However, David Walton at Goldman Sachs predicted it would take a lot more evidence like yesterday's figures to persuade the Bank of England not to raise the cost of borrowing again this year.

Geoffrey Dicks at NatWest Markets said: "The economy is not in for a hard landing, but exporters will have a torrid time."

Peter Thomson, director general of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, said this month's results clearly painted a weaker picture.

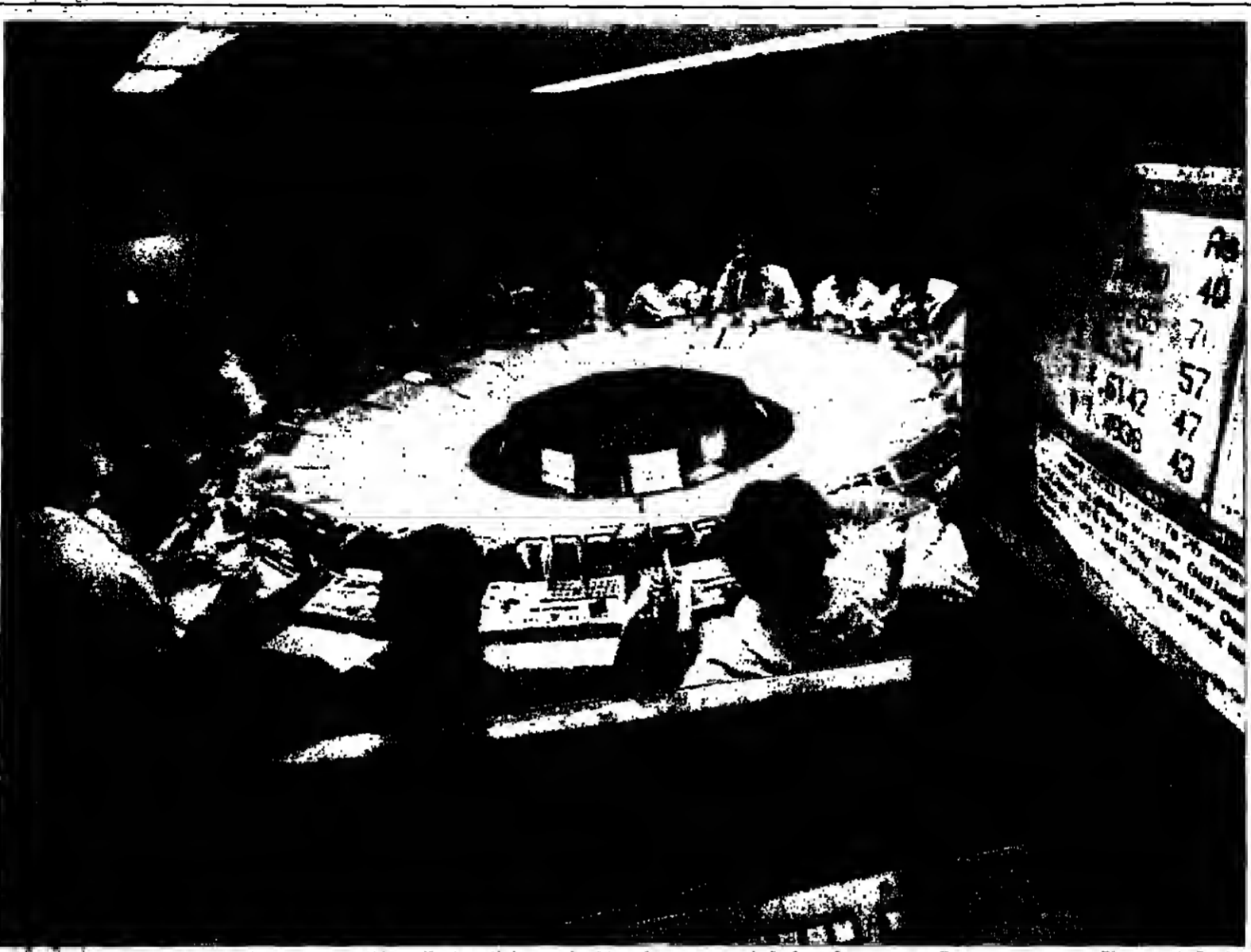
There is a danger of cooling the economy as a whole to the point where manufacturing is in recession," he said.

At the same time, yesterday's figures from the Bank of England provided the first indication for many months that consumer spending might be running at less than fever pitch. New consumer credit amounted to only £506m in July compared with £1.3bn in June due to a big drop in the take-up of personal loans from banks. Borrowing on credit cards increased compared with the previous month, and net mortgage borrowing also climbed by £300m to £2.3bn.

The Bank of England also reported a slowdown in the growth of M0, the narrow money measure which consists mainly of cash. The annual growth in notes and coins in circulation dipped to 5.1 per cent last month from 5.5 per cent in July.

These weaker monetary figures coincided with news from the Halifax that house prices rose by 0.5 per cent in August after a 0.1 per cent increase in July, leaving annual house price inflation unchanged at 6.4 per cent.

As a result of the mortgage rate rises and Budget increases in stamp duty and mortgage tax relief, the Halifax said it was cutting its forecast for house price inflation this year to 6 per cent from 7 per cent.



A Tokyo money brokerage monitor shows the US dollar's activity against the Japanese yen during afternoon trading

Stephen Vines
Hong Kong

Hang Seng drops 5% in last-minute flurry

The Hong Kong stock market's blue-chip Hang Seng Index shed almost 710 points yesterday, a fall of 5 per cent and the biggest drop since the beginning of the recent stock market carnage in East Asia.

The sell-off in Hong Kong was far greater than in neighbouring markets, although they did remain in the doldrums.

The turmoil in Hong Kong is taking no hostages, with some of the biggest companies having millions of dollars wiped off the value of their shares. HSBC Holdings, the biggest company on the exchange, saw HK\$13 knocked off its price, a one-day fall of 6 per cent.

However, in the last half hour of trading, the market burst to life with big overseas institutional investors pouring in sell orders. Most came from Europe where fund managers appeared to be taking a negative view of East Asian markets.

The Hang Seng Index has shed 2,173 points in the past six days of trading, registering one of the biggest periods of decline in the Hong Kong exchange's history. "Our market doesn't have a problem," said Sir Donald Tsang, the territory's Financial Secretary, who is trying to talk up prices.

Until yesterday he only needed to talk up the blue chips, as non-blue chip stocks had been in only modest decline com-

pared with the Hang Seng Index constituents. This changed sharply with a sudden plunge of more than 10 per cent in the value of H-shares, the shares controlled by Chinese state corporations.

Howard Georges, the managing director of South China Brokerage, said investors in China-associated stocks had become "a bit panicky" as they saw other parts of the market slump and started to offload their shares in a rush.

"Hong Kong tends to do things very sharply and savagely," Mr Georges said. He was not sure when a rebound could be expected but insisted that "Hong Kong fundamentals are really pretty OK".

Brokers' analysts cited fears over the local currency and rises in interest rates as reasons for the sell-off but it seemed more likely that herd mentality had gripped the market, causing a stampede into cash.

Meanwhile, the Hong Kong dollar came under renewed selling pressure but, as ever, aggressive market intervention by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority held the local currency close to its fixed link with the US dollar.

In Indonesia the authorities tried to curb the forward selling of the local currency as a means of shoring up its value but the rupiah continued to slide alongside share prices.

The Singapore dollar, which became entangled in the Asia-

DBS gets £425,000 fine over pensions

Nic Cincotti
Personal Finance Editor

DBS Financial Management, a firm of independent advisers, has been fined a record £425,000 by the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the financial regulator, for "serious failures" linked to personal pensions mis-selling.

The penalty, revealed in *The Independent* last month, is the largest to be imposed over the mis-selling scandal. In addition, DBS must pay costs of £19,450.

In a parallel move, Ken Davy, chairman of DBS, would resign his position as member of the regulator's board of directors, the PIA announced yesterday.

Mr Davy said he had submitted his resignation with regret. He said he had tried to work "unflinchingly for the good of consumers and the industry which serves them".

Joe Palmer, chairman of the PIA, said: "Ken has been a good colleague and will be missed at the PIA board but the crucial importance of the pensions review means that his decision to stand down was correct."

Shares in DBS, which have traded as high as 23p since the company's float on the stock market this year, fell 12p to 20 1/2p yesterday, valuing the company at £90m. DBS, based in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, operates a national network of more than 2,600 independent financial advisers (IFAs) working for 1,800 firms.

In return for a slice of their commission earnings, DBS undertakes to deal with compliance issues on their behalf, offering them a range of additional technical services. But a statement by the PIA said DBS admitted failing to "take all reasonable steps" to carry out its review of pension business undertaken in the past by its appointed representative firms.

The failure of firms to carry out pension reviews to more than 500,000 clients has acquired fresh importance in the wake of Government moves to speed up compensation payments to victims.

Martin Greenwood, chief executive at DBS, said the company was pleased to have settled the matter.

PowerGen shares fall as Roberts leaves abruptly

Clifford German

Shares in PowerGen, the largest of the two specialist electricity generators, fell 7p to 77.5p against the market trend yesterday after the company abruptly parted company with Dr Alf Roberts, commercial and general manager of the new business ventures division, which includes the central heat and power division, upstream

oil and gas and international ventures.

Dr Roberts is to leave on 19 September to "pursue career opportunities outside the company". He had a two-year rolling contract and a remuneration package worth £248,000 a year, according to the last published accounts. He has no immediate plans but City sources said his expertise could well secure him a job with a dozen or more US or

European power generators looking to expand internationally.

Dr Roberts, 52, is almost the last survivor of the pre-privatisation management. He was mainly responsible for setting up the UK trading operations in the aftermath of privatisation a decade ago and established a reputation as a shrewd player of the internal market for electricity in the UK. But his main role recently has been to act as a link

between managing director Derek King and the international businesses.

The point has now been reached, the company claims, where these businesses need a measure of independence while reporting directly to Mr King, who took over the role last year and initiated an extended clear-out of the surviving members of the board from pre-privatisation days. Dr Roberts has now ef-

fectively worked himself out of a job and the company is now in a position to take out a level of management.

City sources pointed to the problems that PowerGen's existing Australian project, Yallourn in Victoria, was facing as a result of deregulation and a fall in the wholesale electricity prices. But analysts said that rival ventures had faced similar problems and doubted if Dr

Roberts could properly be blamed for its poor performance.

The company under Mr King's hands-on style of management has now purged the old board with the single exception of the chairman, Ed Wallis. This has caused some nervousness among investors but his position as Mr PowerGen remains secure, industry sources said yesterday.

Arnault plays a waiting game

Andrew Yates

Bernard Arnault is planning to leave his next charm offensive on the shareholders of Grand Metropolitan and Guinness until the last possible moment before meetings are held for investors to vote on the £23bn merger of the two UK drinks giants.

The controversial head of LVMH, the French luxury goods group, is likely to hold off for the next few weeks at least, leaving GrandMet and Guinness guessing on what his strategy will be. The delaying tactic raises the possibility that Mr Arnault will not unveil new plans to block the deal until the eve of the shareholders vote, not due until October at the earliest, in an attempt to catch the UK drinks companies by surprise and postpone consummation of the deal further.

An LVMH spokesman said yesterday: "We have no new charm offensive planned and we are definitely not arranging new appointments with GrandMet and Guinness shareholders at the moment. The ball is in the other side's court. Of course as the October deadline

for the competition inquiry result and the subsequent shareholder votes on the deal gets nearer we will want to meet shareholders to tell them of our latest plans."

Mr Arnault has no plans to meet Guinness and GrandMet in the near future.

GrandMet and Guinness are due to report to the European Commission on Thursday in an attempt to counter claims that the deal raises competition worries. Both groups are confident that they will not have to make major concessions, such as giving up brands, to get the deal through. LVMH will not raise objections to the deal at the EC hearing.

It wants to form a three-way spirits company, incorporating Moët Hennessy, its champagne and cognac business, and United Distillers and IDV, the spirits arms of Guinness and GrandMet respectively.

STOCK MARKETS						
FTSE 100		Dow Jones*		Nikkei		
* Dow Jones Index & graph at 2:00 hours						
11/10/99: Nikkei 1440						
Indices						
	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1998/07/01	1998/07/01	YTD/99
FTSE 100	4870.20	+52.70	+1.1	5086.50	4056.50	3.40
FTSE 250	4970.20	+6.80	+0.1	4777.70	4386.20	3.50
FTSE 350	2349.10	+21.30	+0.9	2375.00	2174.20	3.10
FTSE SmallCap	2241.50	+19.20	+0.9	2375.00	2174.20	3.10
FTSE All-Share	2296.00	+19.20	+0.9	2375.00	1989.78	3.42
New York	7822.42	-72.01	-0.9	8225.51	5032.94	3.71
Tokyo	17974.30	-265.12	-1.5	20688.07	17303.95	0.651
Hong Kong	12485.65	-709.80	-5.7	18528.27	12055.33	-3.187
Frankfurt	3089.95	+83.95	+2.7	438.93	2843.77	3.421
Source: FT Information						

INTEREST RATES											
Short sterling			UK medium gilt			US long bond			Euro area		
Index	Close	Day's change	Index	Close	Day's change	Index	Close	Day's change	Index	Close	Day's change
UK	2.09	-0.01	US	6.34	-0.01	Japan	1.89	-0.01	Japan	1.89	-0.01
US	6.34	-0.01	Japan	1.89	-0.01	Japan	1.89	-0.01	Japan	1.89	-0.01

Money Market Rates									
Rate	1 Month	3 Year	6 Month	9 Month	12 Month	18 Month	24 Month	36 Month	48 Month
UK	3.09	7.58	7.04	7.91	7.08	8.02			
US	6.34	6.54	6.34	6.34	6.61	7.11			
Japan	0.50	0.53	1.99	2.95					
Germany	0.71	1.5	3.0	3.94	6.37				

Bond Yields *									
	1 Month	3 Year	6 Month	9 Month	12 Month	18 Month	24 Month	36 Month	48 Month
UK	3.09	7.58	7.04	7.91	7.08	8.02			
US	6.34	6.54	6.34	6.34	6.61	7.11			
Japan	0.50	0.53	1.99	2.95					
Germany	0.71	1.5	3.0	3.94	6.37				

MAIN PRICE CHANGES									
Index	Price (p)	Change (p)	% Change	Index	Price (p)	Change (p)	% Change		
UK	359	23.5	4.4	Palco	339.5	28	7.6		
US	214	9	4.0	Orange	214	9	4.0		
Japan	142.3	5.3	3.8	Toronto Envo	142.3	5.3	3.8		

CURRENCIES									
£/\$		£/DM		£/¥		\$/¥		\$/DM	
New York exchange rates and 90-day Spot of 1986 issue									
Dollar									
Yesterday				Yesterday				Yesterday	
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	Index	Close
£ (London)	1.6128	-0.0001	-0.006	£ (London)	0.6200	+0.0001	+0.016	\$/£	0.6368
\$/£ (NY)	1.6205	closed	-	\$/£ (NY)	0.6171	closed	-	DM/£	0.9519
DM/£ (London)	2.0212	+0.180	2.308	DM/£ (London)	1.8114	+1.120	1.477	¥/£	1.4778
¥/£ (London)	194.94	-0.145	-0.074	¥/£ (London)	120.675	+0.585	0.486	DM/\$	1.9860
DM/\$	1.921	-0.1	-5.3	DM/\$	1.962	+0.4	2.0	¥/\$	120.6
OTHER INDICATORS									
Yesterday				Index				Yr Chg	
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	Index	Close	Yr Ago	Most Freq	Index	Close
Crude Oil	18.89	-0.01	-0.73	SP500	257.5	+3.30%	192.4	90 Day	257.5
Gold	524.55	-0.2	-0.04	90 Day	112.8	+3.40%	109.1	24 Hour	112.8
US\$	201.24	-0.1	-0.05	Base Rates	7.00%	-	5.75	-	-

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due to report to the European Commission on Thursday in an attempt to counter claims that the deal raises competition worries. Both groups are confident that they will not have to make major concessions, such as giving up brands, to get the deal through. LVMH will not raise objections to the deal at the EC hearing.

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LVMH is said to target shareholders of GrandMet and Guinness, owning more than 11 per cent of each company. Analysts expect it to carry on selling its down its stake in Guinness to fund the acquisition of more GrandMet shares.

business

IN BRIEF

Yorkshire Group shares jump on sales

Shares in Yorkshire Group, the speciality chemicals group, jumped 12.5p to 187.5p on news that the company had sold three key assets for £58m to focus on its core dyes operation. The company reported upbeat current trading in the dyes business and said proceeds from the disposals would be used to cut debt and boost the remaining business. Analysts estimate that Yorkshire, with £49m cash and borrowing capacity, could build a £100m war chest for acquisitions. The company is selling its leather and chemicals business to BTP for £23m, its Australasian inks and pigments business to Huls of America for £23.3m and its pigments dispersion operation to Holliday Chemicals for £1.8m.

Berry Bros buys Fields Wine Merchants

Two of Britain's oldest wine businesses joined forces yesterday when Berry Bros & Rudd bought Fields Wine Merchants for an undisclosed sum. Berry is Britain's oldest wine merchant and is due to celebrate its 300th anniversary in 1998. Fields Wine Merchants was founded in 1890 and distributes fine wines to the UK wholesale, retail and restaurant trades.

Thomas boosts Britt Allcroft's profits

Britt Allcroft, the group which produces children's favourites such as Thomas the Tank Engine and recently acquired the rights for Captain Pugwash, announced a 21 per cent rise in profits to £2.35m for the year to June. Strong growth from Thomas merchandise and TV programme sales in Europe and Australia more than made up for a disappointing performance in the US and Japan. It plans a new series of Thomas and Captain Pugwash next year. The group is trying to acquire the master licence for Thomas from Reed Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch publishing giant which is selling off its children's book division. It faces stiff competition from Pearson, the media conglomerate, and US publishing group Random House.

Arthur Andersen buys Scottish law firm

Arthur Andersen, which provides multi-disciplinary professional services, strengthened its presence in the British legal community with yesterday's acquisition of Scottish law practice Dundas & Wilson. The latest arrival will combine with Andersen's legal operations Garretts and Dorman Jeffrey & Co to produce an expected total fee income of £50m over the next year.

Mice profits increase by 28 per cent

Mice, the specialist designers and manufacturers of displays for museums and exhibitions, increased interim profits by 28 per cent to £275,000 and is on course to meet brokers' forecasts of £1.75m for the full year and £3m next year. The second half traditionally was the group's busiest time and last year's acquisitions were contributing to profits, chairman Mike Curley said yesterday. The strength of sterling has yet to impact on overseas sales, thanks to sourcing abroad. The shares rose 0.5p to 8.75p.

Rosyth naval base sold to consortium

The former naval base at Rosyth has been sold to a consortium of Scottish businesses for an undisclosed sum, according to the Ministry of Defence. The sale includes the former Royal Navy shore base, HMS Cochrane and Woodend House, the former Base Commander's house. The ministry is retaining the Oil Fuel Depot, the East Tip and St Margaret's Marsh.

Racal wins contracts worth £100m

Racal Electronics has won contracts for its defence electronics business worth about £100m, mainly from the Ministry of Defence, bringing its current order book to more than £500m, an increase of 20 per cent over the past six months. The new orders would enhance the operational capability of the UK's armed forces, Racal said. Defence electronics accounts for around 30 per cent of Racal's annual turnover.

Laird buys Minitec Electronics for £21m

Laird has bought Minitec Electronics for £20.9m, comprising £2.3m in cash for the ordinary shares and £18.6m for the company's estimated net debt and repayment of preference shares. Minitec provides assembly and metal fabrication services to the computer and electronics industries in Scotland. Minitec made operating profits of £2.4m in the year to January 00 £29.5m sales. Ian Arnot, Laird's chief executive, said the acquisition was a continuation of the company's strategy to develop computer-related activities.

Hamlet divisions to be sold off separately

Administrators to the Hamlet clothing group have started selling off divisions of the group as it proved impossible to sell the whole business as a going concern. Keith Goodman, partner in Leonard Curtis, said: "We are selling the wholesale division together with the brand name Force 9, the Nougat brand name, and the Dare to Bare brand name."

Wray wants to float Watford and Saracens

Andrew Yates and Nigel Cope

The quoted football sector looks set to burst into life again as entrepreneurs seek to cash in on the sport's popularity, even though many clubs' share prices have suffered in recent months. Watford, the football club controlled by rock star Elton John, and Saracens, the rugby club run by entrepreneur Nigel Wray, are considering plans to merge and float on the stock market.

It also emerged yesterday that Mr Wray and two other directors of Nottingham Forest stand to make a profit of more than £7m from the flotation of the football club, which is expected to take place in the next few weeks.

"Yes eventually we want to bring Saracens and Watford together. It makes economic sense to combine sports like football and rugby," said Mr Wray. He said he would consider floating on the stock market, following in the footsteps of Loftus Road, which owns both QPR football club and Wasps rugby club.

QPR and Wasps share the same ground in west London and Saracens recently left their own north London home to play at Watford's ground, Vicarage Road.

Mr Wray, non-executive chairman of Nottingham Forest who currently owns 25 per cent of the club, stands to make at least £3m from the flotation. Irving Scholar, former chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, and Julian Markham, another non-executive director, should both make more than £2m.

"Valuations of around £40m are a bit high. We think it will be valued at just north of £30m. We will not do it all badly. In all we paid £19m for the club," said Mr Wray.

He ruled out selling all or part of his stake in Nottingham Forest to fund the acquisition of Watford. He is not planning to sell any shares on the club's flotation and will retain his holding for long term. "I do not like to sell shares and I have no intention of selling any shares in Nottingham Forest," he said.

Nottingham Forest plans to raise £3m-£4m of new money in the flotation through a share offering to fans and financial institutions. The company will use some of the funds for the purchase of new players.

However, a priority is the development of a new training ground which will also include a youth academy for the grooming of young players. Forest has been looking for potential sites within a 10 mile radius of its ground by Nottingham's River Trent.

Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, had been linked to the job of chairman of the club. However Nottingham Forest said Mr Clarke had ruled himself out of the position. "He did not want to be plagued by his constituents talking about a 4-4-2 formation and the match last Saturday," said Mr Wray. Nottingham Forest have yet to decide on a new appointment.

Mr Wray took over the club in March this year, with a £16m cash injection. Even so Nottingham Forest was relegated from the Premier League last season. It currently lies top of the First Division after an impressive start to the season. The club's most notable success came when it won the European Cup two years on the trot in 1979 and 1980.

Current Football League rules prevent anybody owning a significant stake in two football clubs, which could thwart Mr Wray's plans to convert his holding in Saracens into a stake in a sports group incorporating Watford and Saracens while keeping hold of his stake in Nottingham Forest. However according to industry sources the



Nigel Wray: He and other Nottingham Forest directors stand to make £7m from its float

Football League is looking to relax these rules, which is likely to stimulate greater investment.

Mr Wray has also brought new players to Saracens since he took control of the club last year including Francois Pinaar, South Africa's World Cup winning captain.

Analysts believe the rapid phase of consolidation of the ITV network has come to an end and United, Carlton and Granada have emerged as the three dominant players in the industry. "That looks pretty much it for the ITV map for now. Scottish Media is likely to bid for Ulster but that's about it," said one analyst.

Tommy Tillin, chief executive of Miller Freeman, the business publishing arm of United, also ruled out acquisitions after the purchase of Telecom Library. "Taken with the Blenheim acquisition, this completes the present phase of Miller Freeman's expansion through acquisition," he said.

Telecom Library produces a series of magazines and organises conferences about advanced computer products including those that combine the latest phone and computer technology. "This acquisition takes Miller Freeman's IT and telecoms division into world leadership in one of the most exciting and fast-growing sectors in the market," Mr Tillin said. He plans to introduce titles such as *Computer Telephony*, *Call Center and Teleconnect* and *Imaging* to Europe and the Far East. The group also hopes to launch conferences around the world.

However Miller Freeman confirmed it was likely to make 100 people redundant as part of restructuring of its UK publishing business, which is likely to see the closure of the head office in Woolwich.

Persimmon sees sustainable homes growth

Magnus Grimond

Persimmon, one of the UK's highest housebuilding groups, forecast no return to the unsustainable boom of the 1980s as the strong housing market in the South-east ripples out across the UK.

The group said areas of the country south of Leicester had picked up over the past 12 months, with inner London very buoyant, and this strength had started to spread out into the north of England and Scotland.

New house prices were rising at around 5 to 7 per cent in

the South and around 3 per cent in the North, according to John White, chief executive. He described this as "sustainable, steady progress" quite unlike the boom of the 1980s.

Although numbers of visitors through the company's show houses had not gone up, he said the quality of the purchasers had improved, with a higher level of conversions and an increased ability to complete quickly, involving fewer part-exchange contracts.

Persimmon revealed that completions and reservations for the year to date are already up 10 per cent at 5,963 units.

Duncan Davidson, chairman, said concerns ahead of the election and the Budget had almost all evaporated. "Without wanting to be too complacent, we are optimistic on the back of the political situation since the Budget, and the Government does seem to recognise that the private house market is very important to a lot of people."

However, there was a warning that the increased demand had pushed up labour rates for bricklayers and the like by as much as 10 per cent in some areas over the past six months.

Persimmon's general confi-

dence emerged as it reported a 110 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £23.3m for the six months to June, boosted by the £177m purchase of Ideal Homes from Trafalgar House last year. The company said it could not split out the contribution from Ideal, whose rationalisation led to £3.1m of exceptional costs in the previous period, but put the underlying rise in sales - which were up from £203m to £256m - at 10 per cent. The half-way dividend is being hoisted 6.7 per cent to 3.2p.

Persimmon sold 3,194 houses in the period, 18 per

cent more than in the first half of 1996, at an average price which rose from £75,000 to just short of £80,000. Forward sales to be completed in the second half are currently being made at an average of £83,000 and brokers expect total completions for the year to reach 6,600.

Mr Davidson refused to comment on whether he was interested in Fairclough Homes, but said the company was still looking for more acquisitions. He did say that existing operations were likely to be expanded in Scotland, the West Midlands and Kent.

Demerger could improve Burmah's rating

Burmah Castrol is an odd fish. Neither a fully fledged oil company nor totally a chemicals group, the City habitually equivocates about how to rate this lubricants and industrial chemicals combine. The confusion partly explains why Burmah's share price has underperformed the FTSE All-Share by more than 16 per cent in the past year, despite its consistent ability to turn in respectable results from mature markets while maintaining a high dividend yield.

Excluding a £21m currency hit in the first half, mainly on translation, underlying pre-tax profits for the six months to June rose 23 per cent to £134m. The interim dividend is being hoisted by a chunky 125 per cent as the group tries to pay out as much as possible in the form of foreign income dividends before the Government clamps down on FIDs as part of the changes to advance corporation tax. The results spurred a 20.5p rise in the shares to £10.50, leaving them on a forward rating of 15, assuming NatWest Securities' full-year profits forecast of £151m is borne out, still behind Shell's prospective p/e of almost 20. One practical solution to Burmah's rating problem, which the company seems unwilling to contemplate, would be a demerger of its chemicals and lubricants businesses. Though margins at Foseco, the chemicals company bought in 1990, are improving, building them to the target 10 per cent level has been slow and has required costly restructuring.

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Burmah Castrol: At a glance					
Market value: £2.2bn, share price 1050p (+20.5p)					
Trading record	1994	1995	1996	1996	1997
Turnover (£bn)	2.83	3.05	3.08	3.33	3.50
Pre-tax profits (£m)	244	253	272	149	104
Earnings per share (p)	69.4	66.9	74.2	22.5	22.2
Dividends per share (p)	32.5	36.3	43.0	12.0	27.0
Operating profit H1 1997 (growth in constant currencies (%))					
Oil transport	+3.4%				
Lubricants	+19.5%				
Chemicals	+2.9%				
Other	+2.2%				
Group	+11.1%				

leg. Strongly cyclical, it will suffer when the next downturn hits. Lubricants, though more stable, is a tough business, especially in the mature US and European markets. Growth in lubricants operating profits of 19 per cent in the half year, excluding currency, was solid enough, but persuading customers to stump up cash for engine oil is an uphill struggle. However kind Castrol GTX may be to engines, vehicles are using less oil, and severe price competition from the likes of Mobil means Burmah must spend increasingly large sums, typically 10 per cent of sales, on marketing and advertising.

Sentiment continues to be hit by currency factors, with analysts expecting a £30m hit in the full year, and the shares look unexciting.

Bunzl copes with a double whammy

Bunzl, the plastic plugs to paper plate distribution group, has suffered from being pigeonholed by the City in some pretty unfashionable sectors. Not only has it been hit alongside other paper and pack-

aging groups by falling prices but, with most of its profits coming from overseas, it has had to cope with the double whammy of sterling's surge against the rest of the world's currencies over the past year.

Bunzl has also perhaps found it hard to shake off its image as an acquisitive conglomerate, even under the much steadier hand of Anthony Habgood, chairman, over the past six years.

But that would be unfair. Underlying profits have risen steadily over the period, a tradition continued in the latest half-year figures to June showing a 12 per cent rise in profits to £62.4m. Stripping out the currency effects - nearly all on translation - the rise would have been more like 18 per cent. With the dollar at similar levels to this time last year, the effects of that are likely to be much less in the second half.

But Bunzl's recent re-rating, which has seen the shares soar from below 190p a month ago to 233.5p, down 2p yesterday, is based on acquisitions. The five biggest purchases announced since the beginning of the year at a cost of £185m will add around £360m to sales (which rose 6 per cent to £818m in the six months). The extended acquisition of American Filtrona, the US group originally founded by another branch of the Bunzl family, looks set finally to go through later this month, extending the UK group's strong position in plastics and cigarette filters.

But margins are already high there and it is the recently announced \$88m purchase of the paper and plastic disposable plate distribution operation of Unisource Worldwide, once part of Alco Standard, which could really lift the figures. Currently making losses of around \$4m a year, the target is to bring margins up to the 7 per cent average of the rest of the disposable division within three years, adding another \$21m to the bottom line.

Current year profits of £119m followed by £130m would put the

shares on a forward p/e of 14, dropping to 13. That is a sub-market multiple for above average growth. Attractive.

Bluebird's future hinges on Polly

Bluebird Toys remains firmly down in the dumps after a year which has seen a dire profits warning and the shares underperform the rest of the market by 56 per cent. Once a stock market high flyer, the shares peaked at 375p in 1995 but have been on the slide ever since. Yesterday they closed a penny lower at 92.5p.

The shares have been so weak that the management, led by chief executive Chris Burgin, admit they have considered taking the group private. They said yesterday there were no plans for a management buy-out, but a change of heart was possible depending on the share price. Bluebird is now capitalised at only £38m, including more than £12m of cash. For the time being, however, it looks as though more share buy-backs are likely, after three costing a total of £15m in the past 18 months.

Yesterday's half-year figures did not make pleasant reading. Profits for the six months to 30 June fell to £1.9m from £3.1m before. Sales have been hit by destocking in the United States and weak US sales of Bluebird's core Polly Pocket and Disney Tiny Collection ranges. However, the company says the marketing team at Mattel, which distributes the toys in the US, has been changed and higher sales levels are anticipated.

On full-year profit forecasts of £8.5m, the shares trade on a lowly forward rating of 7. Bluebird's future depends on the prospects for Polly Pocket. The company says new launches will drive sales higher. Buying before there is some evidence of that is risky, but the cash provides a cushion and the brave may want to take a punt.

United buys Telecom Library for £81m

Andrew Yates

United News & Media, Lord Hollick's media group, yesterday continued its spending spree by announcing the \$130m (£81m) acquisition of Telecom Library, a US-based magazine and trade show business.

The company also announced it had made a profit of £57m on the sale of its 14 per cent stake in Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television (YTTV). Granada bought United's holding for £100m last month as part of its agreed acquisition of YTTV.

United has snapped up HTV, the regional TV company covering the West Country, and Blenheim, the conference group, in recent months. The company said it would now turn its attention to becoming a force in digital television, which should herald the introduction of hundreds of new channels.

A United spokesman said yesterday: "We are currently involved in digital TV through an association with SAT. It is not an end to our acquisition activity. We are now looking in different areas like digital."

Analysts believe the rapid phase of consolidation of the ITV network has come to an end and United, Carlton and Granada have emerged as the three dominant players in the industry. "That looks pretty much it for the ITV map for now. Scottish Media is likely to bid for Ulster but that's about it," said one analyst.

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Yamaichi job losses could be just the start of it



COMMENT

Although many of the Japanese firm's problems are specific to itself, it is not the only investment bank in London to have geared itself up massively to high levels of business which have simply not materialised

Could this be the first mass case of rogue trading? Just days after Credit Suisse said it had dismissed a trader for amassing a huge unauthorised options position, Yamaichi yesterday announced that it had suspended 50 staff on full pay. Alas, the reality is rather more mundane.

The suspensions were nothing more, it transpired, than a case of the Japanese broker sticking to the letter of EU rules on consultation ahead of a round of redundancies. The end result remains pretty much unchanged, but these days employers are required by law to discuss your sacking for a month before handing over the P45.

That Yamaichi should be reining in its London office comes as no surprise in anyone who has followed the less than glorious assault of the Japanese on the City. The complexities of Japan's arcane accounting standards make it difficult to be sure, but no one believes any of the so-called Big Four have made much of a return on their expensive British investments.

If the Japanese as a whole were struggling, Yamaichi was always likely to be the hardest hit. The smallest of the four, Yamaichi has over been as convulsing as Nomura, Nikko and Daiwa in their global ambitions. Difficulties at home, following yet another gangster payoff scandal and the resignations of most of its top brass, meant Yamaichi was also going to need to pull in its horns overseas to focus on restoring its credibility in Tokyo. The wider implications of the call at Yamaichi's London office

remain unclear. Although many of the Japanese firm's problems are specific to itself, Yamaichi is not the only investment bank in London to have geared itself up massively to high levels of business which have simply not materialised.

With the exception of NatWest Markets, most appear to have matched huge increases in their cost base with commensurate increases in turnover. Without exception, however, all these firms remain highly exposed if this proves ultimately to be the high water mark in the current business cycle.

There are niches for the Japanese to play for, especially in areas such as leasing, where a fat balance sheet counts for a good deal more than local knowledge. But as long as their obvious forte, selling Far Eastern equities to European institutions, remains so unattractive, it is hard to see yesterday's redundancies being the end of it for the Japanese.

SBC case was not quite so clear-cut

Now that the dust has settled a little on the record fine imposed last week by the Securities and Futures Authority on Swiss Bank Corporation, it is worth asking again whether the SFA has achieved the right balance. Outside SBC, that was the almost universal opinion at the time. At last, a City regulator with teeth and the courage to use them, was the general view. But with a week-

end to sleep on it, even rival practitioners are now not so sure.

Nobody wants to apologise for SBC and its apparent breach of Chinese Walls, but the episode does point up some obvious difficulties in taking appropriate regulatory action in cases like this. The nub of the case against SBC was that its market makers were alerted to the possibility of a bid for Yorkshire Electricity when corporate finance attempted to defray the costs of a planned offer through "contracts for differences", a derivative instrument which enables the client to benefit from any uplift in the underlying security.

SBC had its compliance officer act as intermediary between corporate finance and the market makers in bedding the contracts, thus enabling market makers to guess that something was afoot. As a result the market makers piled into the stock, building up a much larger position than was necessary to hedge the contracts for differences. The SFA appears to accept that there was no proper way for SBC to have done this, whichever way it was done was bound to have alerted the market makers.

Rather the fault lay with SBC's failure to restrain its market makers from taking advantage of their information, the SFA seems to believe. But just imagine what would have happened if SBC had attempted to restrain its market makers. They would have known without a shadow of a doubt that something was afoot. They would not themselves have been able to do anything with this knowledge, but it is in the

nature of the City that all their best mates would have made very good use of it indeed. Thus would a situation where market makers were able to guess at the possibility of a bid be turned into one of undiluted insider dealing. Which is worse?

Since all this happened more than three years ago, the Securities and Investments Board has moved to outlaw undisclosed contracts for differences in bid situations. So the episode shouldn't arise again in any case. Clever investment bankers will always remain a step or two in front of the regulators, however. The rewards of innovation are just too great to allow a roasting from regulators and a £300,000 fine to get in the way. If there's a legal way of making money, investment bankers will always find it.

Teetering on the brink of a soft landing

For an overall impression of the state of the economy at the moment, the Grand Old Duke of York is probably your man. Consumers are up, industry is down, and the economy as a whole appears to be teetering on the brink of a soft landing, half way between boom and bust.

Perhaps it is because this sort of benign outlook is so unusual to British experience that City experts are busily separating into the marching up and marching down camps. Yesterday the gloomier were talking about a recession, the R-word only slightly quali-

fied in their remarks by saying that it applied to manufacturing industry only.

The boomsters, on the other hand, saw the weaker monetary figures as welcome evidence that the four recent interest rate increases are tempering the frenetic pace of consumer spending. But it was not enough to let the Bank of England off the hook, they argued.

In the midst of these contradictions, some things are clear. The strong pound is pretty conclusively doing serious damage to manufacturers' order books. It can only be a matter of time before the official trade figures show the impact on actual export volumes. Meanwhile, consumers are equally obviously spending cheerfully as a result of rising incomes, cheaper imports, and the free share windfalls.

How big each of these opposing effects will be is another matter. The economics profession, for what it is worth, is more or less unanimous in predicting that growth will be slower in 1998 than this year. They disagree only about how much slower. A handful think the export downturn will be enough to trigger an economy-wide recession.

But one thing the recessionary tendency forgets is that the point of having an independent central bank to blame for raising interest rates early and often is that it will prevent the boom from reaching proportions that make a big bust inevitable. Having marched rates up far enough to stop consumer demand overheating, the Bank of England will be able to march them straight back down again.

Company directors pocket pay rises of 16 per cent

Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

Company directors are receiving average pay increases of 16 per cent, more than four times higher than the percentage increases going to most workers, according to a report published today. The union-funded Labour Research Department (LRD), which conducted the study, accused quoted companies of "turning a deaf ear" to the recommendations of the Greenbury Committee.

The double-figure increases come at a time when average earnings in the economy are rising at around 4 per cent and headline inflation is moving up at 3.3 per cent. Fresh revelations about "fat cat" pay will fuel inflationary pressures already discerned in the labour market.

Some of the largest pay packets are to be found in private

limited companies. LRD traced 23 directors who were paid more than £2m last year.

City firms also tend to dominate the high pay league with 270 directors on £500,000 or more, 51 of whom received in excess of £1m. Nicholas Roditi, a UK-based adviser to George Soros, the New York financial guru, reportedly earns £80m a year. The LRD calculates he is Britain's biggest earner.

Among the big hitters are celebrities who are directors of their own companies. Pop musician Elton John received £5.5m - a 241 per cent rise - and the earnings of rock star Sting leapt by 659 per cent to £10.2m. Despite Sir Richard Greenbury's call for boardroom "sensitisation" when setting the pay of directors, of the 186 top earners in public companies traced by the research organisation, 110 were awarded increases of

more than 10 per cent. Some 35 of them are now on more than £1m a year.

The two biggest rises in quoted businesses went to directors of Alders, the stores group. Harvey Lipsitch's 223 per cent rise to £736,000 included a £500,000 "special payment" on the sale of the group's subsidiary Alders International. Anthony Collier, who has since left the company, enjoyed an increase of 203 per cent to £552,000, again largely because of a special payment.

Next in the league came Roger Head, who retired from defence manufacturer Vickers after his pay and benefits jumped by 122 per cent to £659,994.

Among the highest earners in publicly quoted companies were Jim Fifeild of music group EMI, on £5.8m, and Sam Chisholm, who was paid £3.8m

Top ten directors' pay increases

Publicly quoted companies

Director	Company	Pay (£)	% increase
Harvey Lipsitch	Alders (19.9%)	736,000	+223.8
Nicholas Roditi	George Soros (19.9%)	80,000	+203.2
Anthony Collier	Vickers (12.9%)	552,000	+203.7
Elton John	Elton John (12.9%)	5,500,000	+241.7
Sting	Sting (12.9%)	10,200,000	+659.5
Sam Chisholm	EMI (12.9%)	5,800,000	+98.5
Jim Fifeild	EMI (12.9%)	5,800,000	+98.5
Roger Head	Vickers (12.9%)	659,994	+122.2
Richard Greenbury	Greenbury (12.9%)	10,200,000	+659.5
Elton John	Elton John (12.9%)	5,500,000	+241.7

before leaving British Sky Broadcasting.

Overall in public and private companies, LRD found 123 directors on more than £1m a year, compared with 97 in last year's survey. Some 418 got more than £500,000 compared with 339 last time.

Pay among directors of private companies tends to be volatile with an average rise of 20 per cent last year compared with 1 per cent in the previous year. The clearest example of volatility, according to LRD, was Mohamed Pervez, chairman of Bestway, the cash and

carry group, whose 1208 per cent rise rocketed him to £3.113m from just £238,000 the previous year. In 1994 his total pay was given as £2,752m.

While increases in average earnings are still at a relatively modest level, Income Data Services reported yesterday there were signs that settlements were beginning to respond to a higher inflation rate.

More than half of deals in recent weeks were in the 3 to 4 per cent range with indications that they were set to move substantially higher in response to the Retail Price Index.

MFI quashes rumours of plan to axe 1,000 jobs

Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

MFI, the kitchens and furniture retailer, played down speculation yesterday that it was considering a shake-up of its warehousing and distribution systems that could lead to the loss of up to 1,000 jobs.

The company has been testing a system of "superwarehouses" under which warehouse space in individual stores is reduced, freeing up more space for retail display. Some City analysts say the company is planning to close many of the warehouses attached to its 180 stores and open a national network of 14 "super-distribution" centres instead.

The company declined to comment yesterday, saying its policy was not to comment on market rumour. MFI is in a closed period ahead of its annual meeting statement on 25 September when it will report

current sales figures. The company also declined to comment on speculation that its national distribution centre in Northampton is under threat.

However, it is thought that even the closure of all the in-store warehouse space would not see a huge number of staff lose their jobs. Of MFI's 9,294 employees, 2,595 are employed in manufacturing, 6,086 in retailing and less than 800 in central services, which includes warehousing.

MFI has been gradually reconfiguring its store portfolio to focus more on the Homeworks format which includes a broader range of homeware products such as furnishings, textiles and tableware. The stores need smaller warehouses and MFI has either been closing the additional space or letting it out to other retailers.

Analysts believe John Randall, MFI's chief executive, is keen to

make MFI a more efficient company. The speculation over its distribution systems comes just weeks after the departure of two directors and the announcement that the retail experiment in Germany is to be abandoned after two and a half years.

David Brock, the international director who had been with MFI for more than 20 years, left the company with compensation of £150,000.

Trevor Tallett, the managing director of MFI furniture centres left earlier the same month. He will remain as a consultant for a year and will still be paid his annual salary of £160,000.

At the beginning of July MFI reported that pre-election jitters had left the year's sales and profits disappointingly short of expectations. Mr Randall reported that sales were 5 per cent higher in the first nine weeks of the year against growth of 7 per cent in March.

Promodes launches £2.9bn bid for rival

Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

The French retail market looked set for further consolidation yesterday when the Promodes group launched a £2.9bn (£2.9bn) takeover bid for the rival Casino group and its largest single shareholder, the Rallye holding company.

Analysts said the deal would transform Promodes into France's largest retailer with a market share of more than 15 per cent. The combined group would have sales of around Fr170bn and a presence in 15

countries and four continents. It will also catapult Promodes into the top three supermarket groups in France.

Promodes' long-remembered interest in Casino was fuelled by legislation in France which has made it much harder for supermarket and hypermarket groups to open new outlets. The tightening of planning regulations has already led to the Auchan group taking over Doctes de France last year while Carrefour has built up a 41 per cent stake in the Cora chain.

Promodes is offering Fr340 for every Casino ordinary share

and Fr270 for every preference share. The Rallye bid is pitched at Fr420 per share.

Analysts said the merger would generate significant economies of scale and vault Promodes from number five to among the top two or three food retailers in France. One analyst estimated the potential cost benefits of the deal at around 0.5 per cent of turnover.

Promodes said the offer represented a premium of 15 per cent to Casino's closing price on Friday and a 19 per cent premium to the average price over the past three months. The

Guichard-Perrachon family controls around 12 per cent of Casino's shares.

Casino and Rallye said the bids were unsolicited. They declined to comment on the approach yesterday but said they would announce their responses today after a board meeting.

Euris, controlled by Jean-Claude Naouri, owns 56 per cent of Rallye, which in turn holds 28 per cent of Casino and 36 per cent of the voting rights. "If Rallye and the Guichard family don't bring their shares, the bid fails," said a spokeswoman for Casino.

If Promodes pulls off the deal the enlarged company would have net debt of almost Fr30bn. The company said its strong cash-flow would reduce the figure to around Fr16bn after two years.

The deal would increase the pressure on Carrefour, the French hypermarket group. Simco Raggatt, analyst at William de Broe, said the deal was likely to be the last major consolidation in the French retail sector. "The map has deteriorated for Carrefour. It is now faced with two mega-groups," he said.

Company Results

Company	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Ascom Group (1)	40.2m (40.5m)	1.1m (300,000)	1.77p (0.74p)	0.5p (0.4p)
Beverly Group (1)	1.5m (2.5m)	-1.23m (-2.98m)	-1.15p (-1.15p)	
Black & Veatch (1)	18.8m (23.5m)	1.88m (1.1m)	3.0p (4.5p)	2.25p (2.25p)
Brit Alltech (1)	11.25m (11.55m)	2.25m (1.95m)	6.85p (7.54p)	1.8p
Brit (1)	846.2m (877.5m)	62.4m (55.2m)	2.3p (2.3p)	2.3p (2.3p)
Charles Stanley (1)	124.4m (128.2m)	2.65m (2.68m)	4.4p (4.4p)	1.4p (1.4p)
Cora Group (1)	16,000 (+)	-1.8m (-1.37m)	-7.1p (-53.1p)	nil
DCS Group (1)	28.7m (15.2m)	2.04m (1.98m)	6.48p (4.07p)	1.0p
Donatop (1)	36.8m (21.55m)	359,000 (139,000)	2.88p (1.06p)	1.1p
Haynes Publishing (1)	27.44m (27.51m)	5.81m (5.51m)	21.8p (21.8p)	10.5p (10.5p)
Hyson Group (1)	7.1m (7.22m)	242,000 (252,000)	0.9p (1.0p)	
Lavender Group (1)	9.18m (6.4m)	1.54m (975,000)	5.54p (5.32p)	1.3p (1.13p)
Libertel (1)	48.17m (57.88m)	2.37m (1.58m)	4.15p (2.38p)	1.85p (1.85p)
Miles Group (1)	8.59m (8.59m)	354,000 (275,000)	0.14p (0.11p)	
Parsons Foods (1)	342.1m (241.8m)	14.1m (11.1m)	4.8p (4.0p)	1.8p (1.75p)
Persimmon (1)	255.3m (262.5m)	23.20m (11.1m)	10.0p (5.2p)	3.2p (3.0p)
Reed (1)	2.49m (1.59m)	190,000 (128,000)	1.9p (1.7p)	nil (nil)
Reynolds (1)	26.22m (21.35m)	2.24m (172,000)	0.54p (0.38p)	0.05p (nil)
Singer & Friedlander (1)	- (-)	28.71m (21.41m)	8.87p (5.34p)	2.75p (1.85p)

(1) - First (2) - Interim (3) - Nine months

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INTEREST RATES

The following interest rates are in effect from 2 September 1997

Investment accounts become effective from 2 September 1997

PRODUCT	BALANCE	GROSS RATE	NET RATE
Tessa	with Annual interest with Monthly interest	6.80%	5.44%
Bonus 90*	£50,000+	6.50%	5.20%
	£25,000 to £49,999	6.10%	4.88%
	£10,000 to £24,999	5.90%	4.72%
	£5,000 to £9,999	5.75%	4.60%
60 day account	£50,000+	6.40%	5.12%
	£25,000 to £49,999	6.00%	4.80%
	£10,000 to £24,999	5.75%	4.60%
	£5,000 to £9,999	5.00%	4.00%
	£500 to £4,999	4.75%	3.80%
Classic Gold	£50,000+	4.80%	3.84%
	£25,000 to £49,999	4.55%	3.64%
	£10,000 to £24,999	4.20%	3.36%
	£5,000 to £9,999	3.70%	2.96%
	£500 to £4,999	3.15%	2.52%
	£5 to £499	1.55%	1.24%
New Generation Account	£5 to £499	2.70%	2.16%
	£500 to £4,999	2.70%	2.16%
	£5,000 to £9,999	2.70%	2.16%
	£10,000 to £24,999	2.70%	2.16%
	£25,000 to £49,999	2.70%	2.16%
	£50,000+	2.70%	2.16%
Treasurer's Account	£50,000+	4.15%	3.32%
	£25,000 to £49,999	3.70%	2.96%
	£10,000 to £24,999	3.20%	2.56%
	£5,000 to £9,999	2.95%	2.36%
	£500 to £4,999	2.70%	2.16%
	£5 to £499	1.55%	1.24%
Direct Instant Account	£50,000+	7.05%	5.64%
	£25,000 to £49,999	6.55%	5.24%
	£10,000 to £24,999	6.30%	5.04%
	£5,000 to £9,999	6.05%	4.84%
	£2,000 to £4,999	5.80%	4.64%

For monthly income accounts, the gross monthly applied rate has been adjusted to ensure that the compounded annual rate continues to equal the gross rate paid on annual interest accounts.

All other closed and former variable rates have also been increased.

Full details of interest rates on all accounts are available at all branches of the Society.

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Three economic zones, all with plenty to worry about



Hamish McRae

There is clearly going to be some sort of market reversal in the US in the next few months, most probably before the end of this year, almost certainly before the middle of the next one

It's September and the mood is suddenly different from the mood of August. It is different because the holidays are over and though of course economic life continues the business and financial communities suddenly begin to focus again on the trends of the coming year. It is the one moment in the calendar when there is always the sharpest transition of mood — a transition this year made yet sharper by the dreadful news from Paris.

We live in a connected world, for the world economy is more of a single entity than ever before in human history. But as people in the three main economic zones look forward, they will look forward with different concerns. In North America the main economic issue is whether the US economy really has stepped into a new period of sustainable, steady growth or whether there is another recession somewhere ahead. In continental Europe the coming months will be dominated by the progress towards the single currency and the difficulties this will impose on the main continental economies, at least in the short term. And in the East Asian zone the issue the clear near issue is whether the present currency and market turmoil heralds something more serious in the real economy of the countries concerned.

In the coming weeks expect these three themes to keep recurring, so it might be helpful at this stage to set out some checklists for each of the three zones — things to watch for, things to worry about.

As far as the US economy is concerned, the analysts fall into two broad groups: those who believe that this time things really are different, and those who think nothing much has changed. But that is just convenient shorthand for it is not a simple question of whether the economic cycle has become much more muted, or whether the vigour of the new service industries will enable sustained non-inflationary growth to carry on for the foreseeable future.

Clearly some things have changed: for example it has been possible to push unemployment down much further than anyone had expected with-

out giving rise to wage inflation. The only possible justification for the present level of the US stock market is that there has been a sea-change in the performance of the economy. But it is equally plausible that while the economy has indeed lifted its performance a gear, there is still a serious rebuff ahead. Or to put the same fundamental point from a slightly different perspective, that while the trade cycle may indeed be more muted, it still exists. Since even a modest reversal of fortune is not priced into equity markets at the moment, there is clearly going to be some sort of market reversal in the next few months, most probably before the end of this year, almost cer-

tainly before the middle of the next one. No one can see in detail what will happen, but clearly something disagreeable will take place. Once it does, the test then will be how well the real economy withstands the financial pressure of rising interest rates and falling share prices. It all may turn out fine — a bumpy year but not a dreadful one, followed by renewed growth in 1998 and 1999. But of course it may not.

On the Continent the issue is different because instead of there being too little slack in the economy there is too much. (Leave aside the UK, which is a special case.) The French and German economies are now growing, and after renewed recession this year the Italian one seems to be moving too. But the recovery is fragile, and there will be no material decline in unemployment in the main continental economies during the next 18 months.

The plan for the single currency imposes an additional layer of uncertainty. Whatever view one takes on the wisdom of the project, EMU will dominate European markets for the next 18 months. Though non-combatants like the UK may feel "over-EMUed" there will be no escape from devoting resources to the practical issues it raises.

So whether they like it or not, anyone wanting to do business in the rest of Europe will have to pull resources away from running the rest of the business to making sure it is EMU-capable. This is partly a question of fixing systems — just at the time when computers have come with the millennium bug. But it is also a question of business strategy — and since space of mind devoted to making ready for EMU is space of mind not available for anything else, in the short-term the competitive impact on European business is entirely negative. That is not to say the whole project is misguided, for that is a separate issue; it is to say that the timing could hardly be worse.

In the third zone, East Asia, the bumps have become obvious in recent weeks. Leave aside Japan for the moment, where the long pull out of recession, even now remains in question and focus on the "tigers".

Six months ago all was triumph: the story that the next century would be dominated by Asia, just as the present century has been dominated by North America and the previous one by Europe. Now the tone is more of fear, dismay or (in the case of Malaysia) xenophobia.

Wise outsiders have long questioned the euphoria which has surrounded these tiger economies, but the speed and ferocity with which markets are reacting and the contagion between them has come as a surprise. This raises a tough question, of which we will hear more in the coming weeks. Economic disruption in East Asia clearly matters for them, but does it matter for us?

The answer is probably not, but only probably. It is quite difficult to see recession in East Asia seriously disrupting the economies of Europe and North America. It is not yet a sufficiently big player in international trade for it to be a dominant market for European and North American goods. There is a parallel with Japan. Look at the way in which recession in Japan has not had any significant effect on the economies of the rest of the world, and Japan remains a bigger economy even than China. (At current exchange rates, as opposed to purchasing power parity, Japan is bigger than the whole of the rest of the East Asian zone put together.)

So even quite severe economic disruption should not matter directly, at least on a one or two-year view. On a five-year view, however, there would be real concern, for the world economy would be losing its most vibrant region. If what we are seeing is more than just growing pains, then we should start to worry more. But at least there is a clear question here: is it growing pains, or something more?

No answers, I'm afraid. What can sensibly be said, though, is that this will be a tetchy, difficult autumn for the world economy, different in quality both from the summer and from the optimism of the spring. Expect some of that tetchiness to show itself here, once those windfall gains fade into memory, and policy leans harder against the boom.

It could be you ... Pick your numbers for a peerage

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Mystic Meg: I see a man in ermine robes falling asleep

A barrister has hatched a plan to use a weekly national lottery to replace hereditary members of the House of Lords. Daniel Lightman thinks that a weekly Mystic Meg-style draw would be just as logical as the current system, which relies on accident of birth.

According to *The Lawyer* magazine, Mr Lightman is this year's winner of the Politics Social Innovations award from the Institute for Social Innovations. He works at Thirteen Old Square chambers in London.

Mr Lightman said that choosing Lords by lottery would preserve a treasured bonus of the current system — that it produces amateurs rather than professional politicians.

Asked by *The Lawyer* whether his system might let in a load of nutters and fascists, he replied: "That is a risk which we have been prepared to take for hundreds of years with hereditary peers, and there is no evidence that the great hereditary families ... are any less prone to insanity or extreme political views than the rest of us."

Such a sweeping constitutional change doesn't seem on the cards quite yet, he admits. "I cannot say I shall be out campaigning in the streets for it."

Lots of journalists go off to become PR people but this is the first time I have heard of a PR person becoming an analyst.

Stephen Ewing, 30, is leaving spin doctors Citigate after just one year to become a lobbyist and analyst at the broker Pragma Group.

The man from Stirling will start next Monday and will be working alongside Robin Gilbert and Stuart Rollinson.

In fact, Stephen reveals, this represents going back to his pharmaceutical roots: "I did a PhD in immunology at Oxford. I was going to go into research but I couldn't face having to apply for grants all the time." Then I went on the road as a salesman for a US biotech company for a couple of years.

exhausting. I'm extremely grateful for the universal support I've received from the profession," he said.

Mr Goldsmith is another legal heavyweight, himself a former chairman of the Bar. Now Mr Glasgow will have slightly more time to spend on his second high-profile role — chairman of the trustees of Harlequins, the glamorous west London rugby club. Mr Glasgow said he is unperturbed by the club's home defeat last Saturday against Bath: "I have huge faith in our captain, Keith Wood."

UBS has poached Charlotte Moore from Schroders to be a "rain maker" for its European automotive and aerospace components group, a job which spans the entire investment banking division. Ms Moore spent 10 years at Schroders, most recently in its European industrial manufacturing group, which she helped establish in 1994. She will be based in London, reporting to Malcolm Le May and Chris Tanner.

New Labour could be facing a stern test of its pro-European policy a lot earlier than it thinks. *The Yorkshire Post*, the journal of the British Weights and Measures Association, carries in its latest edition a ringing editorial which declares: "The campaign moves forward."

The journal, whose patrons include the astronomer Patrick Moore, quotes Nigel Griffiths MP, Labour's spokesman for consumer affairs and meteration, as saying before the election: "I oppose any measure which would make it an offence for a greengrocer to sell apples in pounds and ounces."

The journal now notes that Mr Griffiths has been made junior minister for competition and consumer affairs. "We shall be urging Mr Griffiths to turn his pre-election statement into government action," growled the *Yorkshire Post*.

John Wilcock

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	152.28	22.20	64.61	1000	0.5821		
Canada	22.07	71.06	208.80	1337.6	32.31	89.68	
Germany	23.02	37.40	289.27	1314	38.38		
France	93.05	340.50	80.80	618.7	19.13	359.48	
Italy	28.87	124.14	18.07	176.0	174.79	465.40	
Japan	14.99	36.31	106.74	106.4	16.51		
Spain	60.34	21.70	59.31	37.38	78.74	223.24	
Belgium	102.34	290.00	100.40	100.40	100.40		
Netherlands	3.28	106.98	376.30	23.07	43.42		
Sweden	10.47	5.2	22.16	14.88	19.16		
Norway	10.02	360.00	86.70	48.88	102.7		
Denmark	26.27	37.28	18.37	102.7	23.21		
Switzerland	12.00	310.40	820.30	78.47	85.88	289.27	
Australia	2.02	11.13	36.23	10.83	10.1		
South Africa	2.04	36.34	12.16	13.81	7.5		
Hong Kong	12.98	19.2	103.46	7.98	3.15		
New Zealand	4.74	24.01	102.43	2.94	40.30		
Singapore	2.03	28.36	39.77	15.72	7.9		
SE Asia	2.03	37.33	124.70	37.08	15.19		
South Korea	2.03	48.44	63.16	13.86	19.16		

Other Spot Rates

Country	Spot	Dollar	Country	Spot	Dollar
Argentina	16.97	0.9859	Nigeria	132.858	12.5000
Australia	20.50	0.5250	India	0.0212	0.0000
Canada	17.06	1.076	Pakistan	63.234	0.4075
China	13.395	6.2880	Philippines	48.565	30.0000
France	64.05	1.6400	Sri Lanka	28.004	0.0000
Germany	37.32	1.4509	Taiwan	5.974	3.8412
Greece	4.8847	22.5430	Russia	7.5859	0.0000
India	0.0212	0.0000	South Africa	12.5000	0.0000
Indonesia	0.0000	0.0000	Taiwan	46.721	28.5220
Italy	0.0000	0.0000	UK	0.5821	0.0000

Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount; subtract from spot rate. Rates quoted low to high are at a premium; add to spot rate. Dollar rates quoted as reciprocals. For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0801 123 0032. Costs cost \$50 per minute.

Interest Rates

UK	200%	Germany	250%	US	8.50%	Japan	0.50%
Base	3.00%	Discount	4.50%	Prime	5.00%	Discount	2.50%
Intervention	3.00%	Prime	4.75%	Fed Funds	5.00%	Prime	2.50%
Discount	6.25%	Discount	2.80%	14-Day Repo	5.25%	Switzerland	1.00%
Netherlands	3.00%	Advances	3.25%	Repo (1yr)	6.00%	Denmark	10.0%

Bond Yields

Country	Yr	Yield %	10yr	Yield %	Country	Yr	Yield %	10yr	Yield %
UK	7.00%	8.39	7.25%	7.03	Netherlands	10.00%	4.28	5.73%	5.82
US	8.50%	6.17	6.25%	6.30	Spain	7.00%	5.89	7.35%	6.29
Japan	0.50%	1.16	2.90%	2.12	Italy	8.25%	6.17	8.75%	6.61
France	3.00%	4.00	4.00%	4.00	Belgium	4.00%	5.25%	5.25%	5.15
Germany	4.00%	4.00	4.00%	4.00	Sweden	10.00%	5.87	6.00%	6.00
Italy	4.75%	4.75	5.30%	5.58	ECU OAT	0.00%	0.15	5.25%	5.52

Money Market Rates

Overnight	7 Day	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Interbank	8 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4
Swelling CDs	8 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4
Local Authority Depos	8 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4
Discount Market Depos	8 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4
Treasury Bills (Day)	8 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4
Dollar CDs	8 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4
ECU Linked Dep	8 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4

Tourist Rates

2 Buys	2 Buys	2 Buys	2 Buys
Australia (Dollars)	2.1400	France (Francs)	6.4885
Austria (Schillings)	13.8300	Germany (Marks)	2.8176
Canada (Dollars)	0.6100	Greece (Drachmas)	446.0000
Denmark (Krone)	2.1600	Hong Kong (Dollars)	12.1000
Finland (Markka)	0.0060	India (Rupees)	0.0000
France (Francs)	6.4885	Italy (Lira)	2781.0000
Germany (Marks)	2.8176	Japan (Yen)	100.0000
Greece (Drachmas)	446.0000	Malaysia (Ringgit)	0.0185
Hong Kong (Dollars)	12.1000	New Zealand (Dollars)	2.4075
India (Rupees)	0.0000	Norway (Krone)	11.4600
Italy (Lira)	2781.0000	Portugal (Escudos)	200.0000
Japan (Yen)	100.0000	Spain (Pesetas)	166.6667
Malaysia (Ringgit)	0.0185	Sweden (Krona)	1.0000
New Zealand (Dollars)	2.4075	Switzerland (Francs)	2.3000
Norway (Krone)	11.4600	Taiwan (New Dollars)	24.0000
Portugal (Escudos)	200.0000	UK (Pounds)	0.5821
Spain (Pesetas)	166.6667	USA (Dollars)	1.0000
Sweden (Krona)	1.0000		
Switzerland (Francs)	2.3000		
Taiwan (New Dollars)	24.0000		
UK (Pounds)	0.5821		
USA (Dollars)	1.0000		

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement price	High/Low for day	EstConts traded	Open interest
Long Oil	114.27	114.27-114.11	17764	22186
Aluminum May	1453.0	1453.0-1453.0	22186	22186
Dollar A	2173.0-75.0	2178.0-77.0	42988	27515.0
Gold	336.97-50.0	340.00-0.00	5280	117725
Index	8252.4925	8252.4925	26774	16718
Oil	5345.3335	5400.5410	4656	37840
Zinc	1022.0-25.0	1035.0-44.0	17734	10510

Liffe FTSE 100 Index Option

Series	4800	4850	4900	Call/Put
Dec	108.83	125.81	102.01	7717.2
Jan	228.108	199.183	169.153	14017.7
Feb	227.148	259.196	228.181	20021.3
Mar	232.170	269.191	287.212	23723.4

Energy

Contract	Settlement price	High/Low for day	EstConts traded	Open interest
Oil	18.42	18.42-18.42	10348	10348
Gas	10.75	10.75-10.75	10348	10348
Coal	10.75	10.75-10.75	10348	10348

Commodity Indices

Index	1970=100	1970=100	1970=100	1970=100
Oil	18.42	18.42	18.42	18.42
Gas	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75
Coal	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75

Industrial Metals

Month	Cash	3 mths	Volume	London Metal Exchange
Aluminum	1880.0-93.0	1817.0-180.0	113816	85326
Aluminum May	1453.0-38.0	1453.0-38.0	1195	54180
Copper	2173.0-75.0	2178.0-77.0	42988	27515.0
Gold	336.97-50.0	340.00-0.00	5280	117725
Index	8252.4925	8252.4925	26774	16718
Oil	5345.3335	5400.5410	4656	37840
Zinc	1022.0-25.0	1035.0-44.0	17734	10510

Precious Metals

Month	Cash	3 mths	Volume	London Metal Exchange
Aluminum	1880.0-93.0	1817.0-180.0	113816	85326
Aluminum May	1453.0-38.0	1453.0-38.0	1195	54180
Copper	2173.0-75.0	2178.0-77.0	42988	27515.0
Gold	336.97-50.0	340.00-0.00	5280	117725
Index	8252.4925	8252.4925	26774	16718
Oil	5345.3335	5400.5410	4656	37840
Zinc	1022.0-25.0	1035.0-44.0	17734	10510

Agricultural

Contract	Settlement price	High/Low for day	EstConts traded	Open interest
Oil	18.42	18.42-18.42	10348	10348
Gas	10.75	10.75-10.75	10348	10348
Coal	10.75	10.75-10.75	10348	10348

Other Softs

Contract	Settlement price	High/Low for day	EstConts traded	Open interest
Oil	18.42	18.42-18.42	10348	10348
Gas	10.75	10.75-10.75	10348	10348
Coal	10.75	10.75-10.75	10348	10348

Latest Unit Trust Prices

Unit Trust	
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THE INDEPENDENT

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FORMATION D. 3-5-2
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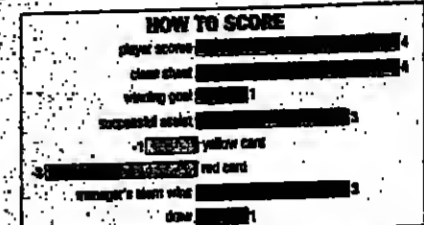
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INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)				
GOALKEEPERS				455	Cox	Bol	2.5	560	Lundekvam	Sou	1.2	679	Sbarpe	Lee	3.5	845	Whelan	Cov	3.0
300	Seaman	Ars	4.0	456	Elliot	Bol	3.0	563	Scales	Tot	3.4	680	Ribeiro	Lee	1.5	846	Huckerby	Cov	3.5
303	Lukic	Ars	1.0	457	Fairclough	Bol	2.0	564	Campbell	Tot	4.0	683	Haaland	Lee	2.5	847	Soltvedt	Cov	1.5
304	Manninger	Ars	3.0	458	Taggart	Bol	2.5	565	Caldewood	Tot	2.9	684	Parker	Lee	2.5	848	Lightbourne	Cov	1.5
305	Bosnich	AV	4.0	459	Bergsson	Bol	1.5	566	Austin	Tot	2.2	685	Taylor	Lee	1.6	849	Dyer	CP	2.0
306	Oakes	AV	1.5	460	Duberry	Che	3.0	567	Edinburgh	Tot	1.6	686	Izzett	Lee	2.1	850	Freedman	CP	2.0
307	Watson	Bar	1.0	461	Petrescu	Cbe	3.0	568	Carr	Tot	1.2	687	Lennon	Lee	3.2	851	Ndoh	CP	1.0
308	Lesse	Bar	1.0	462	Lambourde	Cbe	3.0	569	Mabbutt	Tot	1.5	688	Guppy	Lee	1.7	852	Shipperley	CP	2.0
309	Flowers	Bla	5.2	463	Leboeuf	Cbe	5.0	570	Dicks	WH	3.5	689	Barnes	Liv	3.0	853	Ward	Der	2.5
310	Filten	Bla	1.5	464	Sinclair	Cbe	2.5	573	Rieper	WH	2.7	690	Redknapp	Liv	5.2	856	Sturridge	Der	5.0
330	Filan	Bol	1.5	467	Dalsh	Cov	2.7	574	Hall	WH	3.0	693	McManaman	Liv	5.9	857	Wanchope	Der	3.0
333	Branagan	Bol	1.2	468	Swan	Cov	2.2	575	Potts	WH	1.5	694	Thomas	Liv	3.0	858	Ferguson	Eve	6.5
334	De Goeij	Cbe	1.0	469	Burrows	Cov	2.2	576	Ferdinand	WH	2.5	695	Leonhardsen	Liv	4.0	859	Barnby	Eve	4.5
335	Grodas	Che	1.0	470	Haworth	CP	1.5	577	Impey	WH	2.2	696	Giggs	Man	7.4	860	Deane	Lee	3.0
336	Ogrizovic	Cov	2.2	473	Edworthy	CP	1.5	578	Turner	WH	2.0	697	Beckham	Man	7.0	863	Lille	Lee	1.5
337	Hedman	Cov	1.0	474	Gordon	CP	2.0	579	Perry	Wim	4.0	698	Keane	Man	7.0	864	Hasslebank	Lee	3.0
338	Nash	CP	1.0	475	Muscat	CP	1.0	580	Cunningham	Wim	1.5	699	Butt	Man	7.0	865	Claridge	Lee	3.5
339	Day	CP	1.0	476	Tuttle	CP	2.0	583	Thatcher	Wim	2.0	700	Poborski	Man	3.5	866	Heskey	Lee	5.5
340	Poom	Der	1.2	477	Linghan	CP	2.0	584	McAllister	Wim	1.5	703	Lee	New	3.6	867	Fowler	Liv	9.5
343	Hoult	Der	1.6	478	Roberts	CP	3.0	585	Kimble	Wim	1.5	704	Batty	New	3.8	868	Berger	Liv	4.0
344	Southall	Eve	3.0	479	Hredresson	CP	1.0	MIDFIELD				705	Gillespie	New	2.5	869	Owen	Liv	2.5
345	Gerrard	Eve	1.5	480	Stimac	Der	3.3	600	Platt	Ars	2.5	706	Beardsley	New	2.0	870	Scholes	Man	6.0
346	Martyn	Lee	3.3	483	C Powell	Der	1.8	603	Parlour	Ars	2.4	707	Kelshara	New	2.0	873	Cole	Man	6.2
347	Beesley	Lee	1.2	484	Laursen	Der	1.5	605	Vieira	Ars	4.5	708	Blinker	SW	2.5	874	Solskjaer	Man	7.0
348	Keller	Lee	2.5	485	Eranio	Der	2.5	606	Overmars	Ars	6.0	709	Hyde	SW	1.8	875	Sheringham	Man	5.0
349	Poole	Lee	1.5	486	Phelan	Eve	1.9	607	M Rodriguez	Ars	2.0	730	Whittingham	SW	1.7	876	Nevland	Man	2.0
350	James	Liv	3.5	487	Short	Eve	3.0	608	Taylor	AV	1.9	733	Carbone	SW	3.0	877	Shearer	New	10.0
353	Warner	Liv	1.0	488	Watson	Eve	2.7	609	Townsend	AV	3.2	734	Magilton	Sou	2.4	878	Asprilla	New	7.4
354	Schmeichel	Man	5.5	489	Unsworth	Eve	3.0	630	Draper	AV	4.1	735	Slater	Sou	1.5	880	Tomasson	New	4.0
355	Van Der Gouw	Man	1.2	490	Hinchcliffe	Eve	3.5	631	Marcelle	Bar	2.0	736	Oakley	Sou	1.2	883	Gudjonsson	New	2.0
356	Given	New	2.5	493	Billie	Eve	4.0	634	Bullock	Bar	1.2	737	Anderton	Tot	6.0	884	Humphreys	SW	2.5
357	Histop	New	2.5	494	Kelly	Lee	3.6	635	Redfern	Bar	1.5	738	Fox	Tot	3.5	885	Booth	SW	3.5
358	Pressman	SW	3.0	495	Wetherall	Lee	2.5	636	Eaden	Bar	1.2	739	Howells	Tot	3.2	886	Hirst	SW	3.5
359	Taylor	Sou	1.8	496	Molenaar	Lee	2.5	637	Redfern	Bar	1.5	740	Ginola	Tot	3.5	887	Le Tissier	Sou	7.0
360	Beasant	Sou	1.0	497	Dorog	Lee	1.2	638	Eaden	Bar	1.2	743	Sinton	Tot	3.0	888	Evans	Sou	1.5
363	Walker	Tot	3.4	498	Robertson	Lee	2.5	639	Tinkler	Bar	1.0	744	Nielsen	Tot	2.5	889	Ostenstad	Sou	3.2
364	Bardsen	Tot	1.0	499	Walsh	Lee	2.2	637	Donis	Bla	3.0	745	Williamson	WH	2.0	890	Ferdinand	Tot	5.0
365	Miklosku	WH	1.5	500	Whitlow	Lee	1.2	639	Wilcox	Bla	3.0	746	Hughes	WH	2.0	893	Armstrong	Tot	5.9
366	Sullivan	Wim	2.7	503	Elliot	Lee	1.2	640	McKinlay	Bla	2.2	747	Moncur	WH	2.5	890	Iversen	Tot	4.0
DEFENDERS				504	Watts	Liv	1.6	643	Sherwood	Bla	3.4	748	Bishop	WH	2.5	894	Hartson	WH	5.0
400	Dixon	Ars	2.5	505	Wright	Liv	3.0	644	Flitcroft	Bla	3.0	749	Berkovic	WH	2.5	895	Kitson	WH	3.5
403	Upson	Ars	2.0	506	Ruddock	Liv	3.0	645	Franssen	Bol	1.5	750	Lomas	WH	3.0	896	Holdsworth	Wim	3.5
404	Petit	Ars	4.2	507	Harkness	Liv	1.2	646	Thompson	Bol	2.8	753	Jones	Wim	2.8	897	Ekoku	Wim	4.0
405	Grimendi	Ars	2.7	508	Kvarne	Liv	2.5	647	Pollock	Bol	1.2	754	Earle	Wim	3.1	898	Gayle	Wim	4.0
406	Winterburn	Ars	2.5	509	Bjornheye	Liv	2.5	648	Sellers	Bol	1.5	755	Ardley	Wim	2.0	899	Euell	Wim	1.5
407	Bould	Ars	2.5	530	Matteo	Liv	3.0	649	Gullitt	Che	4.4	756	Fear	Wim	2.0	MANAGERS			
408	Adams	Ars	4.5	533	McAteer	Liv	3.7	650	Di Matteo	Che	5.0	757	Hughes	Wim	2.0	900	Wenger	Ars	7.5
409	Keown	Ars	4.5	534	G Neville	Man	4.2	653	Wise	Che	3.7	STRIKERS				903	Little	AV	5.0
430	Sisunton	AV	3.0	535	P Neville	Man	2.5	655	Newton	Che	2.4	800	Bergkamp	Ars	7.5	904	Wilson	Bar	2.0
433	Southgate	AV	5.2	536	Irwin	Man	2.5	656	P Hughes	Che	1.0	803	Wright	Ars	7.2	905	Hodgson	Bla	5.0
434	Ehiogu	AV	3.0	537	Pallister	Man	3.0	656	Babeyaro	Cbe	3.0	804	Boamorte Per	Ars	2.0	906	Todd	Bol	2.5
435	Nelson	AV	1.2	538	May	Man	3.5	657	Teller	Cov	1.8	805	Yorke	AV	6.7	907	Gullitt	Che	4.5
436	Wright	AV	3.0	539	Johnsen	Man	3.5	658	Richardson	Cov	2.4	806	Joachim	AV	2.4	908	Strachan	Cov	3.0
437	Scimeca	AV	2.2	540	Silva	Man	3.5	659	McAllister	Cov	3.0	807	Collymore	AV	8.1	909	Coppell	CP	2.0
438	Graysen	AV	2.2	543	Albert	New	4.1	660	Salako	Cov	2.4	808	Wilkinson	Bar	1.2	930	Smith	Der	2.0
439	Moses	Bar	1.5	544	Howey	New	3.7	663	Johansen	Cov	2.0	809	Hendrie	Bar	1.5	933	Kendall	Eve	2.5
440	Appleby	Bar	2.0	545	Peacock	New	3.0	664	Simpson	Der	1.2	830	Hristov	Bar	1.5	934	Graham	Lee	3.5
443	Thompson	Bar	1.0	546	Barton	New	3.3	665	Assanovic	Der	3.0	833	Sutton	Bla	4.5	935	O'Neill	Lee	4.5
444	Krizan	Bar	1.0	547	Beresford	New	2.2	666	D Powell	Der	1.2	834	Gallagher	Bla	3.0	936	Evans	Liv	7.0
445	Berg	Bla	3.4	548	Blondeau	SW	2.2	667	Van Der Laan	Der	1.6	835	Dahlin	Bla	4.0	937	Ferguson	Man	9.0
446	Le Saux	Bla	5.0	550	Atherton	SW	1.9	668	Dailly	Der	1.2	836	McGinlay	Bol	2.2	938	Dalglish	New	7.0
447	Coleman	Bla	3.0	551	Walker	SW	2.5	669	Hunt	Der	2.0	837	Blake	Bol	2.7	939	Pleat	SW	4.0
448	Hendry	Bla	4.4	552	Stefanovic	SW	1.6	670	Parkinson	Eve	1.8	838	Black	Che	9.0	940	Jones	Suu	2.5
449	Kenna	Bla	1.9	553	Newsome	SW	1.5	673	Grant	Eve	2.2	839	Zola	Che	3.5	943	Francis	Tot	4.5
450	Henchboz	Bla	2.0	556	Monkou	Sou	1.7	674	Farrelly	Eve	2.5	839	Vialli	Che	3.5	944	Redknapp	WH	4.5
453	Valery	Bla	3.0	557	Dodd	Sou	2.5	675	Stuart	Eve	2.7	840	M Hughes	Che	4.4	945	Kinnear	Wim	4.5
454	Andersson	Bla	2.5	558	Benali	Sou	1.5	676	Speed	Eve	2.5	843	Tore Andre Flo	Che	3.0				
				559	Van Gohhel	Sou	1.5	677	Bowyer	Lee	3.0	844	Dublin	Cov	3.5				
								678	Wallace	Lee	1.8								

Haydock Sprint may be switched to Friday

Racing
JOHN COBB

The British Horseracing Board are likely to announce this morning whether Saturday's race meetings, cancelled because of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, will be rescheduled. Saturday's five fixtures included the valuable Haydock Park Sprint Trophy and the September Stakes at Epsom, an important trial for next month's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

Lord Wakeham, chairman of the BHB, announced yesterday: "The BHB and all the courses concerned felt that it would be inappropriate to stage racing on a day when the whole nation will be mourning the loss of a unique person. We are sure that the whole racing industry will share this view."

Now the board must decide whether to, and how to, reschedule Saturday's cards, in whole or in part.

The BHB's racing director, Paul Greaves, said: "It is a very complex matter. There is the possibility of organising Sunday racing or transferring the two Pattern races. We are discussing moving the September Stakes to Epsom's Friday card and staging the Haydock Park Sprint at either Doncaster's St Leger meeting (which begins to-

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Stand Tall
(Pointed out 4.45)
NB: Hakeem
(Folkestone 3.30)

tomorrow week) or that week-end's Goodwood meeting (12 and 13 September).
The Group One Haydock Park Sprint could also be run on Friday's card at the Merseyside track. "It would be a preferred option for trainers," Greaves said, "as any delay would bring it into close proximity with Ascot's Diadem Stakes at the end of the month and the Prix de

l'Abbaye at Longchamp on Arc weekend."
Ireland is scheduled to race at Fairyhouse on Saturday. A Turf Club spokesman said that a decision on whether the meeting will go ahead will be made tomorrow.
Bookmakers are split over whether to open on Saturday. The Tote made an early decision to close their high street betting offices. It's public relations director, Rob Hartnett, said: "Even if racing had gone ahead we may well have closed as we believed it would have been more in keeping with the mood of the people."

However, David Hood, spokesman for William Hill, said: "We have not yet made a decision on whether or not we will open on Saturday. There is still a possibility of racing at Fairyhouse and morning greyhound meetings may be moved to the afternoon." Coral and Ladbrokes have yet to make a decision.
Flags were at half mast and a one minute's silence was observed at yesterday's meetings at Hexham and Hamilton. At the latter meeting there was a welcome, and successful return to racing by Richard Quinn to end seven weeks of frustration on the sidelines.

Quinn, 35, was back in racing action after breaking his left wrist and was forced to work harder than expected before landing the odds on Graciosa, who had been a Derby entry, in the maiden stakes.

"The wrist is fine - no problems. But it ended up being a bit of a slog," Quinn said. "The horse got a bit upset and he was headed briefly in the closing stages before battling back. It certainly tested my fitness."
The jockey had ended a run of 48 consecutive losses when he sustained his injury at Brighton on 15 July.
"In the period that I was off I rode 48 winners last year so it was a busy time to miss. I just want to get my head down now and ride as many as possible."
There's plenty to look forward to with Central Park running at Doncaster next week and Pooleville due to return at Salisbury later this week.
Central Park, who goes for Doncaster's Champagne Stakes, looks like one of the year's best juveniles after the form of his Goodwood win over Docksider and Little Indian was boosted by the latter's win in the Group Three Solario Stakes at Sandown last week.
The Mark Johnston-trained Graciosa, ridden by Jason Weaver, tackled the Group Three Cottingham Stakes (1m) at Baden Baden today.
The Lewes trainer, John Fitch-Hayes, saddles the only British runner, Ballynagassan and Do Be Ware, in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, a hurdle race, at the Flemish track, Waregem, today.



Quinn: winning return

Swain, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes winner who is also third favourite for next month's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, heads the weights for the Melbourne Cup on 4 November.
The Godolphin-owned horse was yesterday given 63kg - around 10st - for the Australian showpiece. That is the highest impost given to a horse in the race since Galileo's 64kg in 1968. Another Godolphin entry, Classic Cliche, is second to weight with 60kg (about 9st 7lb).
Mark Johnston's Goodwood Cup winner Double Trigger 17th in the race in 1995, at 59kg (9st 5lb) and his brother Double Edge 57kg (9st). Grey Shot, seventh last year, has 53kg (8st 6lb).
Classic Cliche may have to undergo a name change if, as expected, he takes part. Another horse called Classic Cliche races in Queensland and because the Australian authorities will not allow the use of an (IRE) suffix, it is likely that Saeed bin Suroor's change may have to adopt a "Mr" or "Sir" prefix, as used by New Zealand runners when they have the same name as an Australian horse.

Swain top weight for Melbourne

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MELBOURNE CUP 14 November William Hill: 10-11 Melford, 12-13 Melford, 13-14 Melford, 14-15 Melford, 15-16 Melford, 16-17 Melford, 17-18 Melford, 18-19 Melford, 19-20 Melford, 20-21 Melford, 21-22 Melford, 22-23 Melford, 23-24 Melford, 24-25 Melford, 25-26 Melford, 26-27 Melford, 27-28 Melford, 28-29 Melford, 29-30 Melford, 30-31 Melford, 31-32 Melford, 32-33 Melford, 33-34 Melford, 34-35 Melford, 35-36 Melford, 36-37 Melford, 37-38 Melford, 38-39 Melford, 39-40 Melford, 40-41 Melford, 41-42 Melford, 42-43 Melford, 43-44 Melford, 44-45 Melford, 45-46 Melford, 46-47 Melford, 47-48 Melford, 48-49 Melford, 49-50 Melford, 50-51 Melford, 51-52 Melford, 52-53 Melford, 53-54 Melford, 54-55 Melford, 55-56 Melford, 56-57 Melford, 57-58 Melford, 58-59 Melford, 59-60 Melford, 60-61 Melford, 61-62 Melford, 62-63 Melford, 63-64 Melford, 64-65 Melford, 65-66 Melford, 66-67 Melford, 67-68 Melford, 68-69 Melford, 69-70 Melford, 70-71 Melford, 71-72 Melford, 72-73 Melford, 73-74 Melford, 74-75 Melford, 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Appeal of two divisions spreading in the shires

It is beginning to look increasingly likely that cricket's County Championship will become a two-division competition. Plans to change the championship into a three-division format are expected to meet widespread opposition when the first-class counties and MCC meet at Lord's today for a forum to discuss in detail the England and Wales Cricket Board's blueprint for the future.

The ECB's lengthy document, brainchild of the board chairman Lord MacLaurin and entitled Raising the Standard, proposed, among many changes, a restructured county championship featuring three "conferences" of six teams apiece.

However, the blueprint has aroused suspicion, antipathy and anxiety. Rumour is rife that the forum will end the idea of a two-division system, something which, prior to the report's publication, was anathema to many counties. While the wealthier counties would prefer a two-division com-

petition with relegation and promotion, the poorer clubs, out on the financial and geographical periphery, fear that such a simplistic split would make little difference to the quality of the cricket being produced. They also fear that the poorer counties would merely languish at the bottom of the Second Division, where there would be no relegation. They would just stagnate, unable, because of their position, to attract either young talent or the sponsors' and advertisers' cash to support anything like a competitive playing staff.

However, Surrey's chief executive, Paul Sheldon, feels that the forum will reject the three-division plan. "The groundswell is that a three-division structure is rather complicated and meaningless," he explained, "while the status quo is also unacceptable. A two-divisional thing is more likely to be adopted, with promotion and relegation, two or three up and two or three down, and tomorrow's meeting will presumably produce some form

of consensus, which can then be put to the board when we meet to discuss the blueprint formally, later this month."

Somerset's chief executive, Peter Anderson, who called the forum, denied that today's meeting had been called to reject the MacLaurin plan and go for what amounted to the lesser of two evils.

"That is not the idea at all," he said. "We felt that we would not have had a chance to find out what other counties thought. That would have been a recipe for disaster just to pitch up cold on 15 September, when we are to meet with Lord MacLaurin and come up with

David Llewellyn says it will be back to Plan A for cricket's County Championship

possible alternatives and amendments. We wanted to find out what our neighbours thought."

Somerset obtained backing from the requisite five further counties (Leicestershire, Hampshire, Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire and Sussex) to call the forum, at which they also wanted to reflect the opinion of their members, and to that end the counties set aside time for a debate to give members a say.

Hampshire's chief executive, Tony Baker, said: "We need a frank exchange of views. As for us wanting a two-division championship, I don't think that is the case. Originally it was a minority in favour of that format anyway and I have no reason to think anything has changed. But this is something that needs discussion, because we seem to be heading, at breakneck speed, towards doing something in a tearing hurry. And the First XI

programme is only one aspect of it anyway. There is also concern about Second XI cricket."

The report includes a plan to scrap the Second XI championship and instead incorporate it in a 38-strong competition run over two days. But Sheldon feels it would work against the thrust of the blueprint. "A two-day competition is not what is needed. We think the transition needs to be longer and there should be more four-day cricket."

Surrey, like some other counties, feel that the ECB plan calls for too much one-day cricket, especially since it was thought

that the object of the exercise was to improve England's Test cricket. Sheldon added: "We think it would be better to have the number of games in the proposed two-division national one-day league reduced to 17 from the projected 25."

The 50-over national league would be formed by combining the Benson and Hedges Cup and the AXA Life Sunday League and is seen as a money-spinner courtesy of broadcasting deals, but as Anderson pointed out: "It is going to be difficult to implement over the next couple of years. We are contracted to AXA Life for the Sunday League and Benson and Hedges for the knock-out cup until 1998. You then have the World Cup in 1999, and there is every chance that the public will be suffering from TV one-day cricket fatigue after that and might not show too much interest in the proposed 50-over national league."

County members have not been too moved by what is planned if Sussex's experience

of their open meeting last Saturday is anything to go by. A Sussex committee member, Roger Dakin, said yesterday: "It was a quiet meeting. I had the impression that a lot had not read the report, or had only read parts of it. But overall what did emerge was that they were concerned about the preponderance of one-day cricket to the exclusion of the four-day game."

Hampshire reported a muted response when they invited members to communicate their thoughts on the blueprint, although, like Sussex, they wanted more four-day cricket and less limited overs.

Anderson feels more time is needed. He said: "If there is a real desire to have promotion and relegation then why put off the evil day? This blueprint was seen as a compromise, a halfway house on the way to something like that. Why not come up with a plan for the year 2000? It will give everyone a chance to come up with something that should work and should please the majority."

How the new season might look

County Championship

Four days (dovetailing with Test series).
Two Divisions of nine teams, playing each other home and away (16 matches).

Optional Championship play-off between top two teams in Division One: one match.

Automatic relegation for bottom two in Division One.

Automatic promotion for top two in Division Two.

Play-off Seventh in Division One versus third in Division Two.

One-day cricket

NetWest Trophy: 60 overs (unchanged from present). No day-night matches.

National League: 50 overs; two conferences

of nine teams to play each other once and then also play the sides in the other conference: 17 matches.

True play-off between top side in each conference: one match.

Day-night matches: Early season dovetailing with Texaco Internationals or equivalent.

Martin adds steel to Southend

Matthew Slater reports on a new role for a former West Ham stalwart

There is a sign outside Southend United that says Roots Hall's bar sells all the "latest fad drinks". That presumably means alecops, but from the look of the ground's surroundings that could just as easily mean Coca-Cola.

Outside the manager's office, there is a cabinet with one trophy prominently positioned. It is the Sweet FA Cup, awarded not by a recognised football governing body, but by a local restaurant.

Southend United are neither fashionable nor successful. And last year they were just plain awful. Finishing bottom of the First Division, relegation brought a change of manager. Out went Ronnie Whelan, in came Alvin Martin of West Ham fame.

This is the 39-year-old's first managerial job, but it is clearly a natural progression for him. Always a commanding presence in his 20 years in West Ham's defence, not to mention in his 17 caps for England, he is enjoying his new role.

"I've known for some time that I wanted to be a manager, even coaching would not have been enough for me. This is the job that suits me best because I like to have full control over what is happening on the pitch."

While other recently-relegated players have been getting their managerial breaks at more glamorous locations, clubs like Southend are more traditional first jobs. As Martin puts it: "Looking at the jobs on offer, the ones that I would have got, Southend was the one I wanted. I'm trying to stress to the players at the moment that this is a great little club, it is obviously on a smaller scale than West Ham, but it is along the same lines."

Martin admits to being surprised by the quality of the players, and is impressed with the facilities. Money is tight, but he is confident he can get his small but talented squad playing consistent football.

Even if the best things do really come in small packages, Martin knows his side is largely unchanged from the team that performed so badly last year. "I remember going down with John Lyall at West Ham, so I know it's not just the manager's responsibility, it's the players' responsibility too. Those players are still here. I've got to get them back on track."

It is too early to judge Martin's progress, but he is making the right noises. Many ex-players find it difficult to swap the camaraderie of the dressing room for the pressures of the manager's job. Martin is adamant that this does not apply in his case: "When I was on the pitch for West Ham, I was never anybody's mate. If someone wasn't doing it, I would let them know. It's going to be the same now that I'm managing. I'm not here to win a popularity contest."

But it is not only players who will have reason to fear Martin's anger. "I will be critical of referees all the way through my career. I think if you don't mention it, the situation will never get any better." Martin's biggest concern at present, is how he can cope with the sackload of yellow cards his players have already received this season.

"I have never seen so many stop-start games," he said. "But it is not just the referee's fault, it's the law-makers and the assessors in the stands. And it is far worse in the Nationwide than it is in the Premier League. How can that be right when they are carrying squads of 35, and I only have 18?"

Frustrations like that are all part of the lower division manager's lot. Before last season, which Martin spent with Leyton Orient, he had no experience of football's shop floor. Despite the fact that he picked up a back injury which effectively ended his playing days, Martin sees his time in the Third Division as a valuable learning experience.

"It was very enlightening for me. I was interested to see what the quality was like, and I wanted to see how the players reacted when they lost. I enjoyed my time at Orient, and I mean them no disrespect, but going there made me appreciate this club even more."

So, Second Division Southend compare favourably with Third Division Orient. But are they good enough to go up? Martin refuses to make predictions, but extended a warm invitation for a progress report at Christmas. Whether The Blues can compete with the relatively free-spending Watfords, Lutons and Fulhams of the division, is questionable, but you can't help wishing Martin well.



Terry Allen, of the Washington Redskins, feels the force of Mike Fox and Sam Mills, of the Carolina Panthers

Photograph: Reuters

Rice suffers serious knee injury

Turning players on their head is not uncommon in gridiron, but on the opening day of action in the new NFL season, it was a fate that befell the form book as pre-season favourites were turned over.

One of them, the San Francisco 49ers, lost their opening game, at Tampa Bay, and the New York Jets achieved what they managed only once in the whole of last season, by winning a game. They greeted the arrival of Bill Parcells, the coach who took the New England Patriots to last season's Super Bowl, by scuppering the fancied Sea-hawks 41-3 at Seattle.

The 13-n defeat by the Buccaneers was almost the least of the 49ers' worries. They lost their wide-receiver Jerry Rice, who holds almost every meaningful all-time record at the position. He injured his right knee

and their coach, Steve Mariucci, fears the worst.

Rice, 34, suffered the injury in the second quarter when he was dragged to the ground by his facemask by the Tampa Bay defensive end Warren Sapp and his right knee buckled. The play resulted in a 10-yard loss but Sapp was called for a 15-yard facemask penalty.

"We suspect he has a major knee injury," Mariucci said. Rice was to undergo a series of tests, but there were fears he could miss the season.

Sapp pleaded his innocence. "I just went to tackle him and I poked him in the eye," he said. "That's what I thought it was. Those things happen."

Rice, who watched the se-

cond half from the sidelines on crutches, caught four passes for 38 yards before the injury, extending his streak to 176 consecutive games with at least one reception. This is the only mark he does not hold and he is seven games shy of tying the record, held by Art Monk.

Sapp was also involved in a tackle that left quarterback Steve Young concussed, and he took no further part. That is what's known as sapping your opponent's strength.

In Seattle, Neil O'Donnell, who was hardly a shining light last season, threw a career-high five touchdown passes to give Parcells the perfect start with the Jets.

"I couldn't hope for any-

thing better than that," Parcells said. I realise that it's a long season and it's just one step.

O'Donnell completed 18-of-25 passes for 270 yards. The five touchdown passes were the second best in team history and the most since Ken O'Brien threw five on 17 November 1985.

The Patriots carried on as if Parcells had never left, their 41-7 victory over the San Diego Chargers at Foxboro a tribute to the talent of Pete Carroll's ability as their new coach. Drew Bledsoe threw 340 yards and four touchdowns.

The Tennessee Oilers, formerly based in Houston, celebrated their arrival at the Liberty Bowl in Memphis with a 24-21 victory over Oakland in

overtime. Eddie George rushed for 216 yards, but it was a classic drive, led by Steve McNair, that settled the game. Al Del Greco capping it with a 33-yard field goal.

There was a shock for the Carolina Panthers, who fell at fortress Ericsson for their first time. Unbeaten there last season, the Panthers went down 24-10 to Washington. The Redskins running back Terry Allen ran over their defence for 141 yards and two touchdowns.

In Pittsburgh, Troy Aikman tied his record with four touchdown passes, two to Michael Irvin, as the Dallas Cowboys overran the Steelers 37-7.

WRs: Buffalo 13 Minnesota 34; Cincinnati 24 Arizona 21; Detroit 28 Atlanta 17; Miami 16 Indianapolis 30; New England 16; San Diego 7; NY Giants 31; Philadelphia 17; Pittsburgh 7 Dallas 37; St Louis 28 New Orleans 24; Tennessee 24 Oakland 21; Tampa Bay 27 Jacksonville 29; Denver 19 Kansas City 3; Seattle 3 NY Jets 41; Tampa Bay 23 San Francisco 6; Carolina 10 Washington 24.

Kent to leave it late for McCague

Kent, joint leaders of the County Championship, will make a late decision on the fitness of fast bowler Martin McCague before they name the side to face third-placed Gloucestershire at Canterbury today.

McCague missed Kent's last game against Hampshire with a back problem but had a net yesterday and coach John Wright and captain Steve Marsh will monitor his reaction.

Graham Cowdrey is also troubled by a similar problem so Kent have put Matthew Walker on stand-by as cover.

Gloucestershire will leave out opener Nick Trainor, who has failed to score in seven innings this season. He will be replaced by Dominic Hewson, a 22-year-old right-hand batsman from Cheltenham.

Glamorgan, the other joint leaders, will make a late decision on whether to call up batsman Michael Powell or seamer Darren Thomas for their match against Surrey at The Oval.

Matthew Maynard, the Glamorgan captain, will look at the pitch before making his decision. The former England batsman is backing his spin partnership of Robert Croft and Dean Cosker to get the better of Surrey's Saqlain Mushtaq and Ian Salisbury. "Saqlain is a magician," said Maynard. "He's a wonderful spin bowler and Ian has proved that if it is his day he can also be a match-winner. But we have match-winning spinners of our own."

Fourth-placed Yorkshire are set to retain an unchanged side against Worcestershire at Headingley. Their veteran seamer, Peter Hartley, recovering after a hernia operation, bowled two overs in the 10-over Sunday clash with Lancashire at Old Trafford but may not be fit enough for a four-day match.

Worcestershire captain Tom Moody is set to continue as an opener and name an unchanged side. Tim Curtis, who retired at the end of the season, is again omitted as Worcestershire aim to bounce back after defeat by Middlesex.

Somerset's off-spinner Harvey Trump is to retire at the end of the season due to a nagging back injury. Trump, 28, made his Somerset debut in 1988 and has taken 243 first-class wickets, including a best of 7 for 52, achieved twice in the same game against Gloucestershire at Gloucester in 1992.

Surrey's Ben Hollis also has won the Cricket Writers' Club Young Cricketer of the Year award.

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

As an odd couple, Andy Goodway and Shaun McRae would give Lemmon and Malthau a run for their money, but in their contrasting personalities Great Britain believe they could have found the winning formula.

Goodway, the former Oldham coach now with Paris, was confirmed yesterday as head coach for the series against Australia this November and also for the World Cup in the southern hemisphere next year.

Equally significant is the appointment of Shaun McRae, Australian-born and bred but highly regarded for his record over the last two seasons at St Helens, as technical coach.

It is no the combined effectiveness of these two new recruits that the national team's fortunes will depend over the next 14 months - and they could hardly bring to the job two more different sets of credentials.

Goodway was one of the finest players of his generation, playing with distinction for Oldham and Wigan as well as for his country on 23 occasions.

Such was his reputation as a rebel that it was a surprise to many that he ever crossed the tracks to become a coach. So far in that capacity, the most tangible achievement he can point to is keeping Paris clear of relegation after taking over there in mid-season.

McRae's playing career was cut short by a knee injury in his early 20s, but as a coach his

record is remarkable. He was assistant at Canberra as they became arguably the best club side to the world and worked in the same capacity for Australia on two Kangaroo tours and one World Cup.

At St Helens, he won the double of Challenge Cup and the inaugural Super League Championship in his first season and retained the Cup this year.

"I'm delighted that the League has accepted my recommendation," said its technical director, Joe Lydon, who was put in charge of the new coaching team. "I believe that Andy and Shaun are the ideal combination."

McRae also worked with New Zealand in the 1995 World Cup. "He has so much more experience than me in the in-

ternational coaching sphere that I will be looking to him for a lot of guidance," Goodway said. "It is going to be very much a joint venture."

The paths of the two have rarely crossed. "The longest we have talked was in the car on the way over from Birch services," McRae said at the press conference in Leeds yesterday. "But I can already tell that there is a lot of common ground between us."

None of the management team believe that McRae's nationality will be an issue.

"I'm a patriot and a nationalist myself," Lydon said. "But my responsibility is to get the best possible coaching team for Great Britain, regardless of where they were born."

The only proviso is that the people appointed must be

coaching here, so that they know what is going on in this country."

McRae has already influenced the preparatory plans for the Australian series by successfully suggesting that Great Britain should adopt the system of a "train-on" squad, with players being brought into the national squad when their clubs are eliminated from the Premiership.

That is an Australian idea which could be of great benefit to McRae's latest international employers. "The bottom line is that I'm a professional," he said. "I would love to be part of a team that brings the Ashes back to Britain."

A third member of Great Britain's team - a fitness and skills coach - will be named within a fortnight.



Alvin Martin at Roots Hall yesterday. I'm not here to win a popularity contest! Photograph: Peter Jay



Andy Goodway, Great Britain's new coach: "It is going to be very much a joint venture"

